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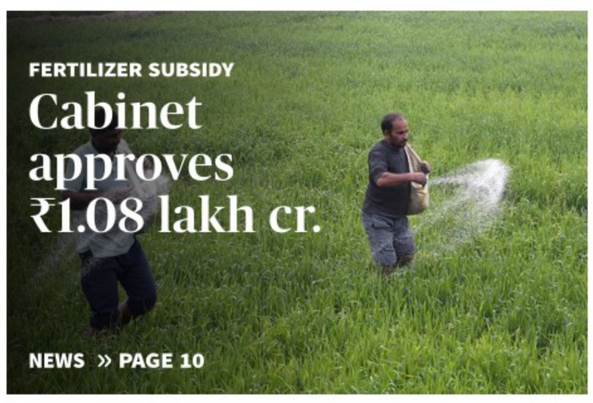

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Two BJP leaders blame Siddaramaiah for quitting Congress

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ongoing tussle between Congress leaders D. K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah for the post of Chief Minister has come out in the open, and also crossed party lines. BJP leaders K. Sudhakar and S.T. Somashekhar, who were once considered close aides of Mr. Siddaramaiah, blamed the former Chief Minister for them quitting the Congress, which led to collapse of the then Congress-JD(S) coalition government. After joining BJP, both the leaders were made Ministers.

In separate tweets, the leaders suggested that Mr. Siddaramaiah's stand against the coalition government pushed them to quit the Congress.

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Siddaramaiah is likely choice of high command

Congress waits for a decision from Shivakumar, discusses various options with him; Rahul meets both contenders; Karnataka will have a government in 48 to 72 hours, says party leadership

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The decision on Karnataka's next Chief Minister and the new State Cabinet will be taken in the next 48 to 72 hours, the Congress announced on Wednesday, as former party chief Rahul Gandhi held separate meetings with the rival claimants for the top post – Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief D.K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah – for the first time after the party's big victory in the Assembly election.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who enjoys the support of a majority of the newly elected legislators, is said to be the high command's choice and this message is said to have been conveyed to both the contenders. But any formal announcement can take place only when Mr. Shivakumar comes on board and gives up his demand for the top job.

Wait continues: Supporters of senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah outside his residence in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

'BJP behind rumours'

Blaming the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for spreading "rumours and fake news" through a section of the media, the Congress general secretary for Karnataka, Randeep Surjewala, warned party leaders not to issue any statement on the leadership issue. "Any out-of-turn remark made from here onward will be treated as indiscipline and action will be taken," Mr. Surjewala posted on his Twitter handle.

In the past two days, Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar have made public statements about why they are the right choice for the top job.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the high command is "working" on Mr. Shivakumar, who spent close to an hour with Mr. Gandhi at former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's 10 Janpath residence, and then spent nearly two hours at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's official residence. Senior leaders, including Mr. Surjewala and general secretary for organisation, K.C. Venugopal, were also present.

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SC gives SEBI time till Aug. 14 to probe Hindenburg charges

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) time till August 14 to complete its investigation into the Hindenburg-Adani Group allegations.

The market regulator clarified that the "investigation" referred to by Minister Pankaj Chaudhary in Parliament in July 2021 concerns an October 2020 probe into "minimum public shareholding norms and consequential violations", which happens to be a part of the U.S.-based short-seller's damning report against the Adani Group.

SEBI was responding to submissions by petitioners that it had been probing Adani since 2016. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had joined in with a tweet that the "Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, told the Lok Sabha on July 19, 2021 that SEBI had been investigating the Adani Group. Now SEBI tells the Supreme Court they have not been investigating any of the serious allegations against Adani!"

> The purpose of these proceedings is not for us or for a PIL petitioner to conduct a roving enquiry... On what is related to the Hindenburg report, the Solicitor-General said he is filing an affidavit
>
> SUPREME COURT

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for SEBI, said it had not begun any probe against Adani in 2016.

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NEARBY

2.6 lakh students to write KCET

BENGALURU
Around 2.6 lakh students will write the KCET-2023 exam, which will be held from May 20 to 22 across the State. This includes 1.4 lakh girls and 1.21 lakh boys and 8 others. The KCET-2023 is the gateway for the entrance for professional courses like engineering.

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Mango mela shortened

BENGALURU
'Mango Mela' is scheduled to begin in the last week of May, but instead of the usual 10-15 days, it will only be organised for five to seven days, according to officials of the Horticulture Department.

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'Heat waves, which used to occur once in a century, are now expected once in 5 years'

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

An international team comprising leading climate scientists, which studied the extremely humid heat in South and Southeast Asia in April 2023, said that heat waves in India and Bangladesh which used to occur less than once a century on average can now be expected around once in five years.

According to rapid attribution analysis by the team as part of the World Weather Attribution group, in Bangladesh and India, events like the recent humid heat wave used to occur less than once a century on average; they can now be expected around once in five years and if temperature rise reaches 2°C – as will happen within around 30 years if emissions are not cut rapidly – events like this will occur, on average, at least once every two years.

For the last two weeks of April 2023, many parts of Bangladesh, India, Thailand and Lao PDR experienced record-high temperatures.

The study was conducted by 22 researchers as part of the World Weather Attribution initiative, including scientists from universities and meteorological agencies in India, Thailand, Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Kenya, the Netherlands, the UK, and the U.S.

The study states that human-caused climate change made April's record-breaking humid heatwave in Bangladesh, India, Laos and Thailand at least 30 times more likely.

Across the world, climate change has made heat waves more common, longer and hotter.

To quantify the effect of climate change on the Asian heatwave, scientists analysed weather data and computer model simulations to compare the climate as it is today, after about 1.2°C of global warming since the late 1800s, with the climate of the past, following peer-reviewed methods.

Who is vulnerable

Chandra Sekhar Bahinipati of the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati and one of the scientists involved in the study said, "Although we have recognized heatwaves as one of the deadliest disasters, particularly in countries like India, Bangladesh, and Thailand, there is a lack of knowledge with respect to who is vulnerable, loss and damage estimation, household coping mechanisms, and the most effective heat action plans."

RELATED REPORT
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Lost homes

Firefighters try to douse the fire that broke out in a slum in the Shastri Park area in New Delhi on Wednesday. At least 15 shanties were gutted in the fire that led to multiple cylinder blasts. No one was injured. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Mammoth task of counting elephants gets underway

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

It is time for the gentle giants of the forests to be counted as the Forest Department in Karnataka embarked on a three-day elephant population estimation exercise on Wednesday covering both protected and unprotected areas.

This is part of the Synchronized Elephant Population estimation conducted once in five years and is being held across the southern States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu which together account for the highest number of elephants in the country.

Rajiv Ranjan, PCCF (Wildlife), said that the exercise could not be held in 2022 and hence was being conducted now. "It will cover both protected areas and unprotected areas and the synchronised exercise helps get a robust and more accurate figure as there are no chances of duplication of the count," he said. In addition to the three Southern states with high elephant population, it is being taken up in Andhra Pradesh, Maharasthra and Goa as well.

The elephant population in Karnataka was the highest in India at 6,049 as per the 2017 census. FILE PHOTO

The first day of the census entailed block count and direct count of elephants and the forest staff will switch to line transects and also take indirect count of elephants through dung.

On the last day. May 19, there will be a waterhole count of elephants to help ascertain the male and female population, subadults, juveniles and calves, according to Ramesh Kumar, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

He said Bandipur has been divided into 115 blocks and each block is being covered by three personnel and hence nearly 450 forest department personnel are involved in the task.

Conducted by 300 staff

C. Harshakumar, DCF and Director, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, said that the nearly 300 staff have been deployed for the elephant estimation exercise and each team will traverse 15 km in a 5 sq. km block to collect the data.

The staff were trained for the exercise which is being carried out in all the 91 beats of the tiger reserve simultaneously covering 500 sq. km and there is no involvement of volunteers.

The last such exercise was conducted in 2017 as per which there were 27,312 elephants in the country of which Karnataka had the highest number at 6,049 and the elephant distribution area was 8,976 sq km. Kerala had 3,054 while Tamil Nadu harboured 2,761 elephants.

Bandipur had 1,170 elephants as per the 2017 population estimation while Nagarahole had nearly 900 to 1000 elephants.

The elephant density per sq. km was 1.54 in Nagarahole, 1.13 in Bandipur, 1.12 in Bhadra Tiger Reserve, and 0.98 in BRT Tiger Reserve.

Elephants were found in 33 forest divisions in Karnataka and the overall density was 0.67 elephants per sq. km for the State. Karnataka had retained its status as the State with the highest elephant population in the country.

Population now

The Karnataka elephant population was pegged at 4,035 in the 2007 estimations and was pegged in a range between 5,648 and 6488 elephants in 2012. This was because the direct count indicated a lower number and the indirect dung count indicated gave the upper estimate.

Kerala govt. approves Ordinance amending hospital protection Act

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday approved an Ordinance amending the Kerala Healthcare Service Persons and Healthcare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2012 by including stringent penal provisions against the perpetrators of violence against hospitals and by expanding the scope of the definition of healthcare workers.

It has been a long-standing demand of the State's medical fraternity that the Act be suitably amended. In the last three years, over 200 incidents of violence against doctors and hospitals have been registered, but not a single person could be convicted till date.

It has taken the gruesome murder of a young house surgeon by a patient last week for the government to fast-track the Ordinance amending the Act.

Section 4 of the 2012 Act, which deals with penalty for those perpetrating violence against hospitals and health-care workers, has been so amended that offenders will be punishable with imprisonment not less than six months to a maximum of five years.

A brand new theme began with Thiem. Or did it?

A September Sunday in 2020 suggested how men's tennis could shape up in the absence of the 'Big Three' but things haven't panned out the way they were expected to

Past perfect, present tense: Thiem served a warning to the elite club with his New York run in the leap year (2020), but he has failed to sustain the momentum due to injuries, loss of form and motivation. FILE PHOTOS

TENNIS

N. Sudarshan

When Dominic Thiem won the 2020 US Open, tennis' Wheel of Life had seemingly course-corrected. After more than three years' utter domination by the legendary, but ageing, trio of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic – they had swept the previous 13 Majors – it appeared that the old had given way to the new. Before Thiem, one had to travel back six long years for a first-time Slam winner - Marin Cilic at the 2014 US Open.

It didn't matter that the tournament was wrecked by Covid and was played in the soul-shattering atmosphere of a bio-bubble. An injured Federer had by then shut down his season and Nadal didn't take the trouble to cross the Atlantic amidst severe travel restrictions. Djokovic entered New York, but was disqualified for accidentally striking a lineswoman with the ball during his fourth-round match.

This meant the competition provided the first glimpse of how men's tennis could shape up in the absence of the 'Big Three'. Thiem, ranked No. 3 in the world, led the mid-card, also comprising Alexander Zverev (the vanquished finalist), Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas, and was the first to break through. That he had already reached three Grand Slam finals (2018 & 2019 French Open, 2020 Australian Open) and beaten the top stars consistently made his ascent unsurprising.

A struggle

Two years and eight months since that victorious September Sunday, Thiem is a shadow of his former self. He hasn't added a single Tour-level trophy to his collection, has struggled with injuries, lost form and motivation, and plummeted in the rankings.

The nadir came in June 2022 when he suffered seven straight first-round losses and slipped to as low as No. 352.

The Austrian, who will turn 30 this September, has inched his way back into the top-100, but the tennis world of today is drastically different to the one he once inhabited. Not one but two other players – Medvedev and Carlos Alcaraz – have won their first Majors and subsequently scaled the pinnacle of the ATP rankings. The likes of Jannik Sinner are waiting to stake claim, making Thiem's climb back to the top arduous.

Thiem's fall has been astonishing to say the least. Injuries in this era of tennis are par for the course, but Thiem's style of play, built on explosive athleticism and physicality, involving whipped strokes loaded with top-spin, puts immense pressure on his legs, wrists and forearms.

In the last three years, he has hurt both his knees, damaged his right wrist (June 2021) that put him out for nine months and suffered an abdominal muscle injury (2023 Australian Open). In March 2022, just after his comeback, he tested positive for COVID-19, sapping whatever little energy was left.

Ahead of the Indian Wells Masters this March, *Tennis Data Innovations* quantified this decline, Thiem's average forehand speed had reduced from 77.6 mph before the wrist trouble to 74.8, average top-spin from 2978 rpm to 2674 and top-spin use from 93% to 89%.

Emptiness

Thiem has also struggled for motivation. In this, he is not alone. American legend Andre Agassi has spoken eloquently about a certain "emptiness" he felt after having become World No. 1.

Djokovic experienced something similar after the 2016 Roland-Garros victory, his first on the red dirt, which made him the first men's player since Rod Laver to hold all four Grand Slam titles at the same time. The Serb needed more than two years to return from the wilderness.

"When you spend your whole life chasing your big goal, subordinating everything to it and then achieving it, things are no longer the same for a while," Thiem told Austrian daily *Der Standard* in April 2021.

"I spent 15 years chasing the big goal... without looking to the left or to the right. I achieved it under strange circumstances, [but] in a way, some things have fallen by the wayside."

In the second half of 2022, Thiem finally looked like he had turned the corner, only to fall back into the rut this season. Where he improved to finish with a 18-14 win-loss record last campaign, he lost nine of his first 10 matches in 2023. Only at the Estoril Open (Portugal) did he manage to win back-to-back matches for the first time since Antwerp last October.

But the 29-year-old remains upbeat. He may already be thinking about life beyond tennis, but the intent to reclaim his place in the upper echelons of the sport is visible.

This summer on clay – a surface on which he has won 10 of his 17 Tour-level crowns – he has shown more than a flicker of life and appears set to improve on his two straight first-round defeats at Roland-Garros.

At the Monte Carlo Masters, he beat the old warhorse Richard Gasquet and at the Madrid Masters, he went toe-to-toe with Tsitsipas before losing in a final set tie-break. Prior to that, in the opening-round win over Kyle Edmund, his average forehand speed and spin showed significant improvement (78 mph and 3099 rpm respectively).

"The shots are getting way better," Thiem said in Monte Carlo. "I have the feeling that I can go full power with the wrist. There is no restriction. The goal is now to put everything together, because there is way more to tennis than to just be able to hit full."

The Barcelona blueprint for LaLiga success

Associated Press
BARCELONA

Roaring again: Barcelona's climb back to the top has sent the fans into a frenzy. AP & REUTERS

Barcelona's risky bet to mortgage the club's future paid off – in the short term at least – as the team, spearheaded by newcomer Robert Lewandowski, clinched its first Spanish league title in four years.

Barcelona won its 27th league crown, second to Real Madrid's 35, with four rounds remaining after a 4-2 win at Espanyol with a pair of goals by Lewandowski.

Here is how Barcelona led the league since the 13th round, brushing aside an arguably more talented Real Madrid side and giving Atletico Madrid no chance of catching up:

Win now, pay later?

When club president Joan Laporta, the man who first hired Pep Guardiola nearly 15 years ago, returned for a second stint in charge near the end of the 2019-2020 season, he found a club in ruins.

The financial situation of the club with €1.3 billion euros ($1.4 billion) of debt meant Laporta could not honour his pledge to convince Messi to stay. Instead, Laporta told Barcelona's greatest player that he had to leave because the club could not afford him.

Last season, after seeing the team win zero titles, Laporta and his board decided it was time for drastic steps. It sold off 25% of its Spanish league TV rights for the next 25 years for €667 million euros ($725 million) along with other assets.

That cash was used to revamp the squad with the transfers of Lewandowski, Jules Kounde, Raphinha and signing free agents Franck Kessie, Andreas Christensen and Marcos Alonso.

Even though Barcelona once again flopped in the Champions League group phase, in addition to losing to Manchester United early in the Europa League playoffs, it was in contention in LaLiga.

Lewandowski showed that the former Bayern Munich star still has the ability to regularly find the holes in rival defences when given just a sliver of space.

The 34-year-old had no trouble at all in adapting to his new environment after eight highly successful seasons with Bayern. The Polish striker leads the Spanish league scoring chart with 21 goals.

Ter Stegen's influence

A couple of years after he appeared to have lost form, Marc-Andre ter Stegen was back to playing like the goalkeeper that helped Barcelona win its last Champions League title back in 2015. While Real Madrid leads the league in strikes (70 goals), Barcelona needed just 64 goals to win the title, thanks to its great defence that conceded a competition-low 13 goals. Ter Stegen had 25 clean sheets.

The backline was led by Ronald Araujo, who ensured that Barcelona did not miss the mid-season retirement of Gerard Pique.

Araujo was Barcelona's best one-on-one defender, especially against Real's Vinicius Junior in their *El Clasico* games.

The best news for Barcelona is that its future seems secure after the continued growth of its young guns.

Young and kicking

Midfielders Gavi Paez (18) and Pedri Gonzalez (20) have won the past two Golden Boy awards for Europe's best under-21 players. Alejandro Balde (19) displaced long-time starter Jordi Alba as Xavi's preferred option at left-back this season.

Xavi — Barca's prodigal son who found the silver lining

Neeladri Bhattacharjee

Embracing success: The heavyweight Spanish club has had to turn to one of its legends to revive its fortunes. AFP

The romance of winning titles both as a master and an apprentice at a football club sounds like the perfect media story, or even a Hollywood script.

Bob Paisley did it with Liverpool, Carlo Ancelotti with AC Milan and Zinedine Zidane with Real Madrid. Now, Xavi Hernandez has completed his circle of life with Barcelona.

Beating Espanyol 4-2 on Monday, with four games to go, Barcelona won its first LaLiga title in four seasons, under the stewardship of Xavi, who had won eight league titles as a player at the club.

And that circle of life became more special given the circumstances at the club.

In 2020, when Liverpool won the Premier League, people came out with flares, children on top of their fathers' shoulders, cheering for their club in a world that was desperate for happiness during the catastrophic COVID-19 period.

Barcelona's longing for joy was similar, if not the same. The players celebrated their silverware with a sardana, like gleeful toddlers rejoicing in a garden. Fans sang, with tears rolling down their cheeks, and Xavi stood smiling from ear to ear.

The club has been embroiled in a refereeing scandal, where allegations of paying the former president of the LaLiga refereeing committee, Jose Maria Enriquez Negreira, for "technical reports" have earned it a bad name.

Severe financial crisis had seen Barcelona legend Lionel Messi leave even as the club plunged into a debt of over a billion euros. It sold 25% of its LaLiga broadcasting rights and had to shut down its own channel *Barca TV*.

With a fractured team and no trophies since Messi's exit, being a Barcelona fan became tougher. And being the manager became a nightmare.

'It's hard'

"I am constantly judged and criticised. It's hard, I have a family and kids," Xavi had lamented in March this year. "There are many moments when it doesn't pay to be a Barca coach. And even more so if you're a *Cule* like me."

With exits from the Champions League, Europa League and Copa del Rey, nights got darker in Catalonia.

Rays of hope eventually arrived in the Spanish Super Cup, where Barcelona beat arch-rival Real Madrid to win the trophy in January, and four months later, snatched the LaLiga from the very same team with a victory over another rival (Espanyol).

Xavi is one of 21st century's club legend-turned-managers, emulating Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Frank Lampard and Mikel Arteta.

But in the hardest of times, he proved to be the prodigal son of Barcelona, living by the motto *Mes Que Un Club* (more than a club) and finding the silver lining at Camp Nou.

Around 2.6 lakh students will write the KCET this year

The KCET-2023 will be held in 592 centres in the State, of which 121 are in the city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 1.4 lakh girls and 1.21 lakh boys and 8 others, – around 2.6 lakh students – will write the KCET-2023 exam, which will be held from May 20 to 22 across the State.

The KCET-2023, which is the gateway for the entrance for professional courses like engineering, will be held in 592 centres in the State, of which 121 are in the city. While the Physics and Chemistry exams will be held on May 20, the Maths and Biology exams will be held on May 21, in two sessions.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ramya S., Executive Director of KEA said, "The exam will be held at 592 centres across the State. We have made necessary arrangements. Therefore, the students should come to the examination centres 90 minutes before the exam starts."

Students writing the Common Entrance Test at a centre in Mangaluru. FILE PHOTO

The compulsory Kannada exam will be held on May 22 for Horanadu and Gadinadu Kannadiga students in seven cities including Bengaluru, Bidar, Vijayapura, Belagavi, Ballari, Mangaluru and around 2,000 students have enrolled for this exam.

This year, the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) is conducting the CET for B.Sc Nursing courses as well. However, there are around 16,000 interstate students enrolled for this examination and they have been exempted from the compulsory Kannada exam.

No full sleeve shirts

To avoid malpractice in examination centres, the KEA has decided to conduct this exam by following the guidelines of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

Therefore, full sleeve shirts, wristwatches, calculators, mobile phones and other electronic devices are barred from the examination hall. It also restricts girls from wearing any type of jewellery, including earrings and bangles, high-heeled slippers, jeans, T-Shirts. Girls must wear garments like salwar suits and sandals only. Boys should wear only a half shirt and pants, and not tuck their shirts in. They should only wear sandals. Only transparent water bottles are allowed in the examination halls.

II PU Arts, Commerce students, who did not write exams, get second chance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The II PUC students of 2022-23 academic year of Arts and Commerce streams, who couldn't appear for the examination due to lack of attendance, have been allowed to register for the supplementary examination. This is the first time that Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has given students this opportunity. This will benefit 12,385 candidates.

These students should enrol for the supplementary examination as a private candidates. However, the students of science stream do not have this facility, as they have to give practical examinations.

A minimum attendance of 75% is mandatory for appearing the II PU examination. However, due to lack of attendance, 7,985 students from Arts and 4,400 students of Commerce did not appear for the examination this year.

Providing relief to these students, KSEAB has decided to allow them to write the supplementary examination as private candidates and has given them three days to enrol. The II PU supplementary examination will commence from May 23 and May 20 is the last days to enrol for it.

"For the first time, we are providing this facility for those with low attendance. Students should go to their concerned colleges and enrol themselves as a private candidate before May 20," Ramachandran R., chairman, KSEAB, said.

Caretaker assaults elderly woman, makes away with valuables

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Parappana Agrahara police are on the lookout for a 46-year-old caretaker who had assaulted an elderly woman and robbed her of valuables worth ₹2 lakh at her house in Singasandra in Parappana Agarahara on Tuesday.

The family had hired the accused, identified as Satyam Sachdev, from an agency to take care of their aged and ailing mother. The family had gone to Mysuru leaving Sachdev behind with the mother when the accused attacked her with a club and robbed her of her gold valuables and escaped.

The incident came to light when the family tried to reach the mother but found her unconscious and alerted the police. The police rushed to the spot and registered a case under Section 394 (Voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery) for further investigation. The victim has been admitted to a hospital for treatment and family are checking the house to ascertain whether any other valuables are missing.

This is is the second such incident of a caretaker stealing valuables from the same house, a police officer said. Three months ago a caretaker had stolen valuables and the police had tracked him down .

Though the family had hired the caretaker through an agency, they later cancelled the contract after a month and hired him directly, the police officer said. The police have requested people to be careful while hiring caretakers.

Armed men rob cigarette distributor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two armed men attacked and robbed a 48-year-old cigarette distributor and made away with ₹70,000 and a mobile phone in Kanaka Nagar in broad daylight on Monday.

The victim, Ravi P., was on his way to work when the duo confronted him and demanded money. The duo attacked Ravi with a knife and a chopper when he tried to resist and escaped after taking away ₹70,000 in cash and a mobile phone.

Ravi sustained injuries on his hand, legs and head. Passers-by rushed him to Baptist Hospital where he is being treated. The DJ Halli police have registered a case of robbery and assault and trying to track down the accused.

In Cooke Town

A similar incident was reported when an armed youth tried to rob a mobile phone from a girl after threatening her with a dagger in Pulakeshinagar on Monday.

The victim, Dhanashri B., 26, a resident of Cooke Town, was walking near her house when the accused, armed with an iron rod, got down from an autorickshaw and threatened her and tried to snatch the purse she was carrying.

Meanwhile Dhanashri's domestic help and her husband who were passing by, rushed to her aid following which the accused ran away. The entire incident was caught on CCTV cameras.

Driver, conductor felicitated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) on Wednesday felicitated KSRTC crew who rendered humanitarian service on Monday.

S. Vasantamma, as driver cum conductor, and driver H.B. Kumaraswamy, both from Chikkamagaluru depot of Chikkamagaluru Division, helped Fathima, a 21-year-old pregnant woman travelling in the bus who went into labour deliver the baby in the bus by requesting passengers to alight. G. Sathyavati, MD, KSRTC felicitated Ms. Vasantamma and Mr. Kumaraswamy with a cash award of ₹5,000 and ₹2,000 respectively.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that **Mrs.T.G.Viiayalakshimi** W/o Late T.G.Gangappa residing at no 505, H M T Layout 5th Cross. 7th Main Road, Ganganagar. Bangalore-560 032 is negotiating to sell my client **Sri M.N. GIRISH**, Son of Late M S Nagaraj the Schedule Property Smt. T.G.VIJAYALAKSHMI, Wife of Late T G Gangappa claims that she is the present Owner of the Schedule Property and further declares that it has not been Pledged or mortgaged or charged or there is no pending any litigation or the Schedule Property has not been sold to anyone or not even entered into any Agreement of Sale or MOU and there is no impediment for the sale in favor of intending Purchaser.

Any person or persons have any rights Tittles claim or objection or interest from the said Property by way of sale inheritance, possession. succession mortgage, lien, lease, gift or otherwise howsoever in respect of the same. shall intimate or lodge the objections in writing to the undersigned with supporting documents thereof in support of their claims or objections within the Fifteen (15) Days from the date of publication of this Notice failing which thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction from the owner and any claims received beyond the stipulated period will not be considered and shall be deemed to have been waived and are/abandoned

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential vacant property bearing No 2381.. Layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority. Bangalore in Nada Prabhu Kempegowda Layout. **(Sy No 101/6 of Ramasandra Village), 3rd Block 'G' Sector** measuring East to West 15 Meters and North to South 24 Meters measuring altogether 360 Sq Meters and bounded on the

East by: Site No.2380, **West by:** Site No 2382; **North by:** Site No.2373, and Private Property **South by:** Road.

Date: 11.05.2023
Place: Bangalore

D.L.Manjunath
Advocate for the Purchaser
No 38, 1st floor LIC Pruthvi Building
Annexe K. G Road, Bengaluru-560009
Mob: 9845385001

Government of Maharashtra.
Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.3,
In front of office of the Superintendent of Police (Rural),
Civil lines, Nagpur-1.
E-mail :- div3nagpur.ee@mahapwd.com, Telephone No. (0712) 2561586
E-Tender Notice No. 07 / 2023-24
Outward No.:- 1851 / Tender., Date:- 10.05.2023

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.3, Civil lines, Nagpur are invited Online e-tenders in SBD form for following works from Any Capable Persons / Contractor. Tender paper can be download on Govt site http://mahatenders.gov.in. Also, Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Conditional tenders will be treated as non responsive.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. In lakhs)	Tender form Rs.	Work Competion period (In Months)
1	Constn. of New Court building with electrification at Umred Dist. Nagpur	1865.70	3540	18

E-tender downloading & Sale period :- 18.05.2023 to 01.06.2023
Pre tender conference meeting :- 24.05.2023 @ 16.00 hrs at Chief Engineer, P. W. Region, Nagpur
E-tender opended. :- 05.06.2023 Place:- Superintending Engineer, P. W. Circle, Nagpur.
Information about E-tender can be available following web site:
1) http://mahatenders.gov.in
2) Notice board of office of the Executive Engineer, P. W. On. No.3, Nagpur.
3) Terms and conditions binding to all participants. The changes will be available on electronic tendering system of Govt of Maharashtra portal i.e. http://mahatenders.gov.in
4) Tender will be opened as per mentioned schedule on portal if applicable.

Sd/-
(Dilip Deole)
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division No.3,
Nagpur.

DGIPR/2023-2024/774

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION)
Tender Notice No. OHE/CN/DyCEE/ 23-23/02/185 Date: 16.05.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ OHE, Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.

"Shifting of OHE utilities including modification to existing OHE at Peralam and Karaikal stations in connection with the laying of new BG line between Peralam and Karaikal stations in Tiruchirappalli Division of Southern Railway".

Tender Value: ₹45,16,585.71
Tender closing date and time: 09.06.2023 at 11.00 hrs.
For more details visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/OHE, Electrical Construction/Chennai-8

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CHENNAI DIVISION
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Arakkonam
E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited from the intending contractors by the undersigned through GeM portal **https://www.gem.gov.in** for the following work:

Gem bid No.: GEM/2023/B/3435498, dated 16 05.2023
Description of Work: Cleaning, Sanitation and Disinfection Service - Outcome Based - Industrial
Date & Time of Tender Closing: 26.05.2023 & 12:00 hrs
Note: For further details of tender, please visit **https://www.gem.gov.in**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby notified that my client proposes to purchase the schedule property, which was purchased by the Partnership Firm M/s. V.M. Trading Company in terms of the Sale Deed dated 05-05-1976, document No.71/1976-77, Book I, Volume 1072, Pages 135 to 138 and registered at the office of the Sub Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore.

Subsequently the continuing partner Mr. D. Surya Prakash gifted the schedule property interms of the Gift Deed dated 22-08-2017, document No.3178/2017-18, Book I, recorded in CD No.BSGD 316 and registered at the office of the Sub Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore in favour of his children viz., Mr. S. Dilip Kumar & Mrs. Tara Bai, No.42, 4th Temple Street, 15th Cross, Malleswaram Bangalore.

Any person or persons having any claims/objections for the said sale transaction may lodge their claims/objections with documentary evidence within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the transaction and any claims received thereafter will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **immovable property bearing Corporation No.48/1, PID No.46-13-48/1, situated at 3rd Main Road, N.T. Pet, Bangalore, Ward No.139-K.R. Market, within the revenue administrative jurisdiction of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike** and measuring:

EAST TO WEST : 65-0 Feet
NORTH TO SOUTH : 15-0 Feet
TOTAL AREA : 1020 Square Feet
and bounded as follows:
EAST BY : Remaining portion of the same property
WEST BY : Main Road
NORTH BY : K.N. Anjanappa's property
SOUTH BY : Private property

Mr. A.P. GURURAJ, Advocate
G.R. ASSOCIATES
No.2919/9,13th Main Road, D.BLOCK, 2nd Stage Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.
Mob. 9980100658/08049923190
Email: grenterprises772@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients have entered into an Agreement to purchase the Immovable Property from **(1) Mr. RASHEED SYED ABDUL BASITH, (2) Mr. SYED WAJID, (3) Mr. AKMAL RASHEED, (4) Mr. SYED ASIF , (5) Mr. SYED ARIF, (6) Mr. SYED ADIL, (7) Mrs. SHAZIA BEGUM,** all are children of (Late) Syed Abdul Rasheed and (Late) **Mrs. Akhtari Begum**, being Commercial Immovable Property bearing BBMP **No.89,** New Bamboo Bazaar, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.119 (Dharmarayasamy Temple Road), total site area measuring **1560 Square Feet**

If any person/s are having any objections or claims in respect of the above sale the same be lodged with documentary proof within **7 days** from today failing which our client will get the Sale Deed registered and it shall be deemed there are no claims of any nature whatsoever.

K.M.A.PERES, VIREN MICHAEL PERES, Advocates, No.46/1-1, Wheeler Road, Bangalore- 560005, Mobile: 9845000414. E-mail. peresoffice@gmail.com

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TRIVANDRUM DIVISION (WORKS BRANCH)
E-TENDER NOTICE No.V/W/TVC/9/2023 DATED 16/05/2023

The Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice and Complete details are given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sl. No.	Description	Approx. value (In ₹ Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit ₹
1	Collection and training out of track ballast at Paravur ballast depot.	354.78	327400
2	Collection and training out of track ballast at Kadakkavur ballast depot.	371.00	335500
3	Ernakulam Sub Divn. - Essential repairs to FOBs in Sr Section Engineer/Works/Ernakulam section	30.35	60700
4	Provision of Passenger Lifts at' Alwaye - 2 Nos (PF1 & 2/3)	25.43	50900
5	Alwaye -Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme	228.71	264400
6	Trichur P. Way section - ERC greacing, boxing of ballast painting of rails & other maintenance works in P.Way to eliminate deficiencies in track.	93.04	186100
7	Destressing of LWR in Ernakulam sub division	52.25	104500
8	Improvements to gate lodges and water connections at LCs in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Trichur sub division	94.16	188300
9	Trivandrum Division - Construction of Gang Rest Rooms - 13 Numbers (6 Nos. in Quilon P.Way section, 3 Nos. in Mavelikara P.Way section, 4 Nos. in Varkala P.Way section)	174.18	237100
10	1). Ernakulam- Essential repairs to platform surface including replacement of damaged slabs, repairs to trolley path etc. 2). Ernakulam-Alleppey-Kayamkulam Brightening of bridges. 3) Repairs and repainting of premises at Kumbalam. Tirunettur, Gate lodges at LC No. 75,75A,1,4,6 Height gauges and rail fencing 4). Brightening up of platform shelters Ernakulam, Ernakulam North & Kumbalam .	93.97	188000
11	Trivandrum Division - TRR(P) for a length of 13.393 Km in KYJ - Trivandrum Section.	112.29	206200
12	Trivandrum Divisional Office Complex - Provision of Lift to Annexure Building	18.00	36000
13	Trivandrum Division - Proposed renewal of corroded members and rivets of Steel girder bridges	56.07	112200
14	Trivandrum Divn - Divisional Engineer/South Jurisdiction - Construction of RPF Barracks at Alleppey, Kochuveli, Nagercoil and Kanniyakumari	305.05	302500
15	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Trivandrum -Subsection - Maintenance & repair of minor bridges including clearing of water way and approach drains.	81.32	162700

Period of completion in months: Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 5 to 10, 14: TWELVE months. **Sl. No. 3:** THREE months. **Sl. No. 4:** NINE months. **Sl. Nos. 11, 13, 15:** SIX months. **Sl. No. 12:** FOUR months.

Tender closing date and time: Sl. No: 1 to 15: 13/06/2023 at 11.00 hrs

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting.

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IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND CJM AT TUMKUR
ORIGINAL SUIT: 718 /2021

BETWEEN: Reliance Prolific Traders Private limited. A company and Companies Act, 2013 Having its registered office at Court House, 5th Floor, Lokmanya Tilak marg, Dholi Talao Mumbai-400002. Having it corporate office at Reliance Smart , 2nd floor Real Estate Divison, Vijayanagar , Bengaluru -560040 Represented by its authorized attorney Mr. Vijay .K.C, aged about 46 years ... **PLAINTIFF**

AND: Smt. Rudramma and others ... **DEFENDANTS**

NOTICE /SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT No.13

1. M/s. Sri Shakthi Enterprises, A registered partnership Firm Having its office at No .5, 7th Cross ,Thimmaiah Garden, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru-560032. Represented by its Managing partner ... **DEFENDANT No.13**

NOTICE

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted seeking inter alia declaration, Permanent injunction pertaining to property situated at Hale Nijagal Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk as Bangalore Rural District and specific performance of agreement of sale dated 28.07.2007 defendant No.13 above named is hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or any by a pleader on the **29/05/2023** at **11 'o' clock** in the morning, to answer the claim and is erected to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the suit will be heard and determined in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 29/03/2023

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, Senior Civil Judge & C.J.M. Court, Tumkur

Advocate for Plaintiff: **H.G. VASU**
PVR LAW ASSOCIATES
Behind Nilcose coffee building, Mandipet 1st Cross, Tumkur.
Mob: 9964216258,8073510459

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. GSU/CPM/JP/NIT/23-24 Date : 15.05.2023 Chief Project Manager, Gati-Shakati unit, N.W.Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15.30 hours on the date shown as below - **Sr. No. :** 1 **Name of work with location :** GSU-ENGG-JP-2023-24-21 Dy. CE (GSU) JP Div.: Development of infrastructure for maintenance of Train sets in coaching depot at Jaipur yard. . **Approx Cost of work :** 175447577/- **Bid Security Rs. :** 1027200/- **Sr. No. :** 2 **Name of work with location :** GSU-SnT-JP-2023-24-22 Dy. CSTE (GSU) JP Div.- Signalling work in Connection with DFCCIL with IR at GEK station over Jaipur Division and Provision of signalling and Dead end facility for common loop at Gegal Akhari in FL-MD section over Jaipur Division. **Approx Cost of work :** 7381457/- **Bid Security Rs. :** 147600/- **Sr. No. :** 3 **Name of work with location :** GSU-SnT-JP-2023-24-23 Provision of Telecom work in connection with construction of RUB at KM-266/0-1 at old Kishangarh station of Jaipur Division. **Approx Cost of work :** 1069148/- **Bid Security Rs. :** 21400/- **Sr. No. :** 4 **Name of work with location :** GSU-ENGG-JP-2023-24-24 Dy. CE (GSU) JP Div.: Construction of Road over bridge (4 lane) in lieu of LC No-189 near Sikar station of RGS-SIKR section JP Division. **Approx Cost of work :** 777245012/- **Bid Security Rs. :** 4036200/- **1.** Detail is available on N.W.Rly website-www.ireps.gov.in and Notice Board in CPM/ GSU/JP Office, NWR/Jaipur. **2.** Tender No. GSU-ENGG-JP-2023-24-21, Tender No. GSU-SnT-JP-2023-24- 22 to GSU-SnT-JP-2023-24-23 are be closed on 07.06.23 at 15.30 hrs and opened on 07.06.23 at 16.00 hrs and Tender No. GSU-ENGG-JP-2023-24-24 is be closed on 23.06.23 at 15.30 hrs and opened on 23.06.23 at 16.00 hrs.

518-CQ/23

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Alok Govind Ravishankar Komari S/o. K.A.Ravishnkar (Alok Govind K.R) Residing at 24, First Floor, 6th Cross, 6th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore 560072 have Changed my Name to Alok Ravishankar Govind (Alok R Govind) Vide Affidavit Dated 09.05.2023 Before Notary H.R.Karunakara, Notary, Bangalore. Henceforth i shall be known as Alok Ravishankar Govind (Alok R Govind).

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GOHEL Naresh Kanaiyalal is legal Father of Devarsh D O B 12-12-2021, R/o # 49, Byreshwara Nilaya, 2nd Floor, 2nd House, 3rd Cross, Muniyappa Layout, Murgeshpalya, Bengaluru-560017 have changed my minor son's name from Devarsh to Devarsh N Gohel vide affidavit dated 16-05-2023 before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASIF Pasha, R/a No.22, 2nd Flr, 5th Crs, Gangondanahalli Nayandahalli post, Bengaluru-560039 have changed my minor daughter's name from Alfiya Sultana to Azra Mariam vide affidavit dt: 16.05.2023 sworn before Notary H.R.Karunakara, B'luru

I, MAHEK Shariff, W/o Annur Ajmal Sheriff Khaja, R/at A A Villa, 2nd Cross, 2nd Stage, Domlur, Bangalore-560071 have changed my name from Mahek Shariff to Mahek Annur Sheriff vide affidavit dated 16-05-2023 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

TENDERS

Repco Home Finance - We value your Dream
Empanelment for Furnishing Vendors and Architects
RHFL invites applications from established and experienced Furnishing Vendors and Architects, fulfilling the eligibility conditions for empanelling the same.
Last date for submission is **31.05.2023** (5.00 p.m)
For further details and application procedure, visit our website: **www.repcohome.com**

The Pondicherry Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., No. P.1
Ref. Ponlait / Purchase / Diesel operated Bread Baking Oven / 2021-22
Date:18.05.2023
Modified Technical Specification & Price Bid Published on 09.05.2023 for Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Rotary Rack Oven at PONLAIT
www.py.gov.in
Bid submission date extended: 26.05.2023 before 12.00 p.m
Contact Ponlait: 9942994116 / 9942994127
MANAGING DIRECTOR

PERSONAL

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING

Thankyou for favours received - DNR

THANKSGIVING

Thankyou for favours received SK

THANKSGIVING

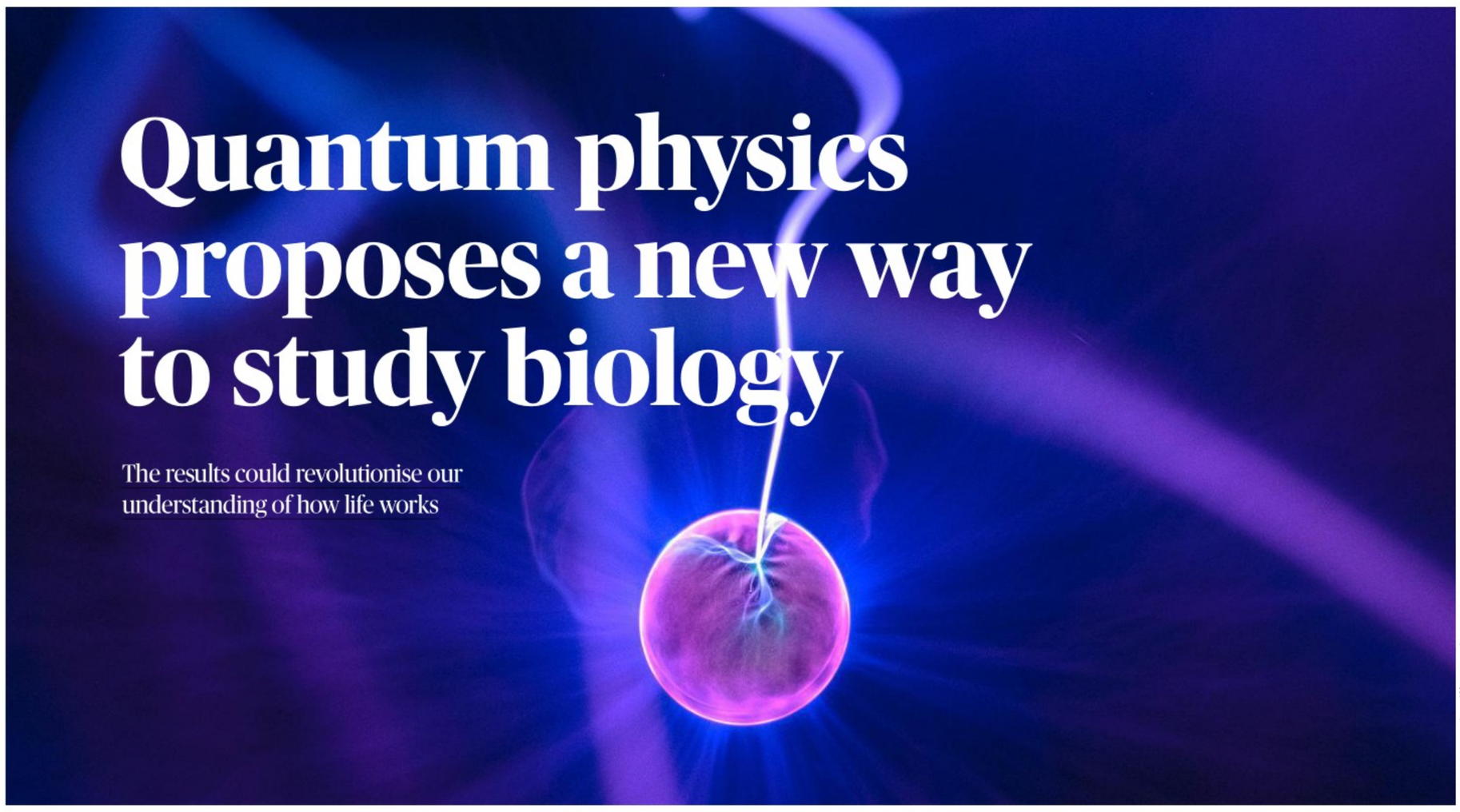
Thankyou for favours received - RVS

THANKSGIVING

Thankyou for favours received SK

Quantum physics proposes a new way to study biology

The results could revolutionise our understanding of how life works



Representative illustration. ZOLTAN TASI/UNSPLASH

Clarice D. Aiello

Imagine using your cellphone to control the activity of your own cells to treat injuries and disease. It sounds like something from the imagination of an overly optimistic science fiction writer. But this may one day be a possibility through the emerging field of quantum biology.

Over the past few decades, scientists have made incredible progress in understanding and manipulating biological systems at increasingly small scales, from protein folding to genetic engineering. And yet, the extent to which quantum effects influence living systems remains barely understood.

Nature and quantum mechanics

Quantum effects are phenomena that occur between atoms and molecules that can't be explained by classical physics. It has been known for more than a century that the rules of classical mechanics, like Newton's laws of motion, break down at atomic scales. Instead, tiny objects behave according to a different set of laws known as quantum mechanics.

For humans, who can only perceive the macroscopic world, or what's visible to the naked eye, quantum mechanics can seem counterintuitive and somewhat magical. Things you might not expect happen in the quantum world, like electrons "tunneling" through tiny energy barriers and appearing on the other side unscathed, or being in two different places at the same time in a phenomenon called superposition.

I am trained as a quantum engineer. Research in quantum mechanics is usually geared toward technology. However, and somewhat surprisingly, there is increasing evidence that nature – an engineer with billions of years of practice – has learned how to use quantum mechanics to function optimally. If this is indeed true, it means that our understanding of biology is radically incomplete. It also means that we could possibly control physiological processes by using the quantum properties of biological matter.

Quantumness in biology

Researchers can manipulate quantum phenomena to build better technology. In fact, you already live in a quantum-powered world: from laser pointers to GPS, magnetic resonance imaging and the transistors in your computer – all these technologies rely on quantum effects.

In general, quantum effects only manifest at very small length and mass scales, or when temperatures approach absolute zero. This is because quantum objects like atoms and molecules lose their "quantumness" when they uncontrollably interact with each other and their environment. In other words, a macroscopic collection of quantum objects is better described by the laws of classical mechanics. Everything that starts quantum dies classical. For example, an electron can be manipulated to be in two places at the same time, but it will end up in only one place after a short while – exactly what would be expected classically.

In a complicated, noisy biological system, it is thus expected that most quantum effects will rapidly disappear, washed out in what the physicist Erwin Schrödinger called the "warm, wet environment of the cell." To most physicists, the fact that the living world operates at elevated temperatures and in complex environments implies that biology can be adequately and fully described by classical physics: no funky barrier crossing, no being in multiple locations simultaneously.

Chemists, however, have for a long time begged to differ. Research on basic chemical reactions at room temperature unambiguously shows that processes occurring within biomolecules like proteins and genetic material are the result of quantum effects. Importantly, such nanoscopic, short-lived quantum effects are consistent with driving some macroscopic physiological processes that biologists have measured in living cells and organisms. Research suggests that quantum effects influence biological functions, including regulating enzyme activity, sensing magnetic fields, cell metabolism and electron transport in biomolecules.

Studying quantum biology

The tantalizing possibility that subtle quantum effects can tweak biological processes presents both an exciting frontier and a challenge to scientists. Studying quantum mechanical effects in biology requires tools that can measure the short time scales, small length scales and subtle differences in quantum states that give rise to physiological changes – all integrated within a traditional wet lab environment.

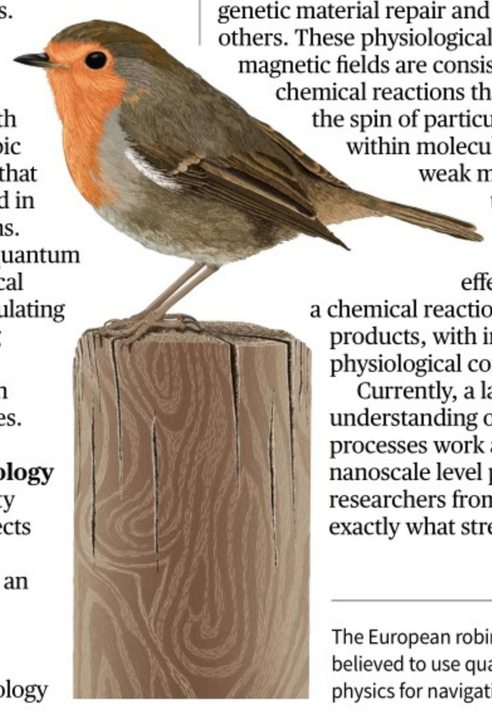
> In the future, fine-tuning nature's quantum properties could enable researchers to develop therapeutic devices that are non-invasive, remotely controlled and accessible with a mobile phone

In my work, I build instruments to study and control the quantum properties of small things like electrons. In the same way that electrons have mass and charge, they also have a quantum property called spin. Spin defines how the electrons interact with a magnetic field, in the same way that charge defines how electrons interact with an electric field. The quantum experiments I have been building since graduate school, and now in my own lab, aim to apply tailored magnetic fields to change the spins of particular electrons.

Research has demonstrated that many physiological processes are influenced by weak magnetic fields. These processes include stem cell development and maturation, cell proliferation rates, genetic material repair and countless others. These physiological responses to magnetic fields are consistent with chemical reactions that depend on the spin of particular electrons within molecules. Applying a weak magnetic field to change electron spins can thus effectively control a chemical reaction's final products, with important physiological consequences.

Currently, a lack of understanding of how such processes work at the nanoscale level prevents researchers from determining exactly what strength and frequency of magnetic fields cause specific chemical reactions in cells. Current cellphone, wearable and miniaturization technologies are already sufficient to produce tailored, weak magnetic fields that change physiology, both for good and for bad. The missing piece of the puzzle is, hence, a "deterministic codebook" of how to map quantum causes to physiological outcomes.

In the future, fine-tuning nature's quantum properties could enable researchers to develop therapeutic devices that are noninvasive, remotely controlled and accessible with a mobile phone. Electromagnetic treatments could potentially be used to prevent and treat disease, such as brain tumours, as well as in biomanufacturing, such as increasing lab-grown meat production.



The European robin is believed to use quantum physics for navigation.

A whole new way of doing science

Quantum biology is one of the most interdisciplinary fields to ever emerge. How do you build community and train scientists to work in this area?

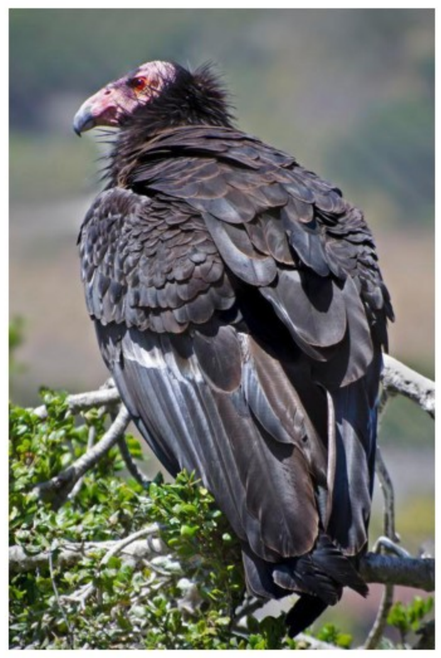
Since the pandemic, my lab at the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Surrey's Quantum Biology Doctoral Training Centre have organized Big Quantum Biology meetings to provide an informal weekly forum for researchers to meet and share their expertise in fields like mainstream quantum physics, biophysics, medicine, chemistry and biology.

Research with potentially transformative implications for biology, medicine and the physical sciences will require working within an equally transformative model of collaboration. Working in one unified lab would allow scientists from disciplines that take very different approaches to research to conduct experiments that meet the breadth of quantum biology from the quantum to the molecular, the cellular and the organismal.

The existence of quantum biology as a discipline implies that traditional understanding of life processes is incomplete. Further research will lead to new insights into the age-old question of what life is, how it can be controlled and how to learn with nature to build better quantum technologies.

The author is an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at the Quantum Biology Tech (QuBiT) Lab of the University of California, Los Angeles.

[This article is republished from The Conversation.*]*



A Californian condor, in the Bitter Creek Wildlife Refuge, California. GETTY IMAGES

U.S. approves of emergency vaccine use to save California condors

Associated Press
Reuters

U.S. officials have announced the emergency use of a bird flu vaccine to protect the California condor, a critically endangered and magnificent animal that has already bounced back once from the brink of extinction.

After finding a California condor dead from the highly pathogenic avian influenza in March, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sought the help of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which granted emergency approval for use of the vaccine. Even since, more than a dozen condors have died from the bird flu, known as H5N1.

The department approved the emergency vaccination "because these birds are critically endangered, closely monitored, and their population is very small which allows close monitoring of the vaccine," the release said.

The deaths, all near the Arizona-Utah border, are alarming considering the world population of California condors was estimated at only 561 at the end of 2022. This includes 347 free-flying birds in three states and Mexico and 214 in captivity, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bird flu has killed hundreds of millions of birds worldwide, with the virus largely spread by wild birds that transmit it to poultry across the globe

Before condors are vaccinated, the wildlife service will conduct a pilot safety study starting this month on North American vultures, marking the first time the vaccine has been tested on wild birds in the U.S., said Joanna Gilkeson, a wildlife service spokesperson.

Bird flu has killed hundreds of millions of birds worldwide, with the virus largely spread by wild birds that transmit it to poultry. The toll in the U.S. includes more than 430 bald eagles and some 58 million turkeys and commercial chickens; the latter were euthanised to prevent the spread of the disease.

While scientists work on poultry vaccines, commercial flocks for now are protected by other measures such as segregation, USDA said.

The California condor is one of the world's largest flying birds with a wingspan of up to 2.7 metres and weighing more than 9 kg, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

California's population of iconic condors was nearly wiped out – there were only a few dozen birds in the 1970s – by hunting during the California Gold Rush, as well as by poisoning from the toxic pesticide DDT, and by ingesting lead ammunition

In the 1980s, all 22 California condors left in the wild were put into captive breeding programmes to save the species. Zoo-bred birds were first released into the wild in 1992 and in the years since have been reintroduced into wild habitats.

The programme helped increase the population to 161 birds by 1999 from 27 in 1987, the state department said.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

On the awesome feats birds achieve when they migrate

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
X has been found to fly at up to 6.4 km above sea level, as it crosses over the Himalayan mountains sometimes in as little as seven hours. Name X.

QUESTION 2
Some birds use hot air rising up into the air to stay buoyant, reducing the energy demand of their own bodies. What is such rising hot air called?

QUESTION 3
Some scientists believe some birds use a protein called cryptochrome to use _____'s _____ _____ to find their way during a long-distance migration. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4
Sometimes birds returning to their sites of origin overshoot their destination and end up further north. What is this phenomenon called?

QUESTION 5
A 2021 study found that Asian houbaras know when their spring migration should begin by sensing the local temperature. This is believed to be a population-level adaptation to what?

Visual: This is a _____, a name for a stork that was shot by an arrow while migrating in Africa and returned to Europe with the arrow still in its body. Fill in the blank.

ZOOLOGISCHE SAMMLUNG DER UNIVERSITÄT ROSTOCK

WELCOME TO THE
SCIENCE QUIZ

This quiz will appear on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Send your answers, numbered accordingly, to the ID science@thehindu.co.in with 'The Science Quiz' and the quiz's topic as the subject. The answers will be provided in the next edition, along with the names of the first five people who respond correctly to all questions. We're happy to feature quizzes by our readers as well. If you're interested, please write to the same ID. Happy quizzing!

——Quiz by **Vasudevan Mukunth**

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Demand for tertiary treatment of K.C. Valley and H.N. Valley water: Farmers threaten stir

People of Kolar and Chickballapur have a long list of water projects, that they hope will take off under the new Congress government

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

People and activists of Kolar and Chickballapur districts are hopeful that various water projects, that would bring water to the two parched districts, would get a fillip under the new Congress government, which has got a comfortable majority in Karnataka.

The two districts had seen a "Vote for Water" campaign in the run up to the Assembly polls and Congress has won 4 of 6 seats in Kolar and three of five seats in Chickballapur, in the recently concluded Assembly polls.

Activists from the two districts seem to have lost hope in the success of Yettinahole Project that plans to provide water from Netravati river to the two districts and are now pinning their hopes on providing treated water from Koramangala-Challaghatta Valley and Hebbal-Nagawara Valley projects, that were initiated by Congress, during its earlier tenure.

Demand for tertiary treatment

"We will restart our protests demanding tertiary treatment of water from K.C. Valley, being used to fill tanks in the two districts. The new government will anyway present a new Budget shortly. We want to ensure the government earmarks enough funds for water projects in the two districts. If that is not the case, eventually, we will launch an indefinite strike," said farmers' leader Abbani Shivappa, from Kolar.

There is widespread support for the K.C. Valley and H.N. Valley projects where treated sewage water from the city's lakes are being supplied to fill the tanks of these districts. Due to these projects and good rains over the past three years, all the tanks in the two districts are full, to the brim, and this has improved the quality of underground water table. However, there are objections raised on the quality of this treated water. "Untreated K.C. Valley and H.N. Valley water is affecting the health of cattle, people and it is also destroying our crops. Ever since the project was implemented, we have been demanding tertiary treatment. But, this demand has consistently been neglected. We hope this is taken up immediately under the new government," Mr. Shivappa.

Treated water coming out of canal of Koramangala-Challaghatta Valley (K.C. Valley) lift irrigation project where treated water from Bengaluru is being supplied to fill up lakes in the dry districts of Bengaluru Rural and Kolar. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has also ordered, in August 2021, to the Chief Engineer of Minor Irrigation Department, to install tertiary treatment plants at major tanks out of the 126 tanks filled using the treated sewage water from BWSSB STPs. However, there has been no development on the front since then.

No water from Upper Bhadra Project yet

Kolar and Chickballapur districts had been earmarked a share of 4 TMC water from the Upper Bhadra Project and the State government had even opened a UBP office in Kolar district. But after the Yettinahole project was announced for the two districts, the office was shifted to Tumakuru and UBP was implemented for Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts. "There has been complete silence on our rightful share of 4 TMC water from the project. If the new government doesn't provide us our rightful share, we will take up a legal fight to get the same," said Mr. Shivappa.

People lose hope on Yettinahole project

Farmer and irrigation activists seem to have lost hope on the success of the Yettinahole Project, that has dominated the two districts' politics for at least a decade now. The project involves diverting 24 TMC of water from West-flowing streams in Netravati basin to drought prone districts including Kolar and Chickballapur. After nearly a decade and the project cost ballooning from 14,000 crore to 25,000 crore, the two districts haven't got a single drop of water yet.

Anjaneya Reddy, president, Shashvata Neeravari Horata Samiti, Chickballapur said the Yettinahole Project DPR itself was faulty as was pointed out by Central Water Commission and water was not available for the two districts in the project. "The hydrological studies have been faulty and based on this false data, the government is spending thousands of crore. Our demand is that the new government should immediately take up a fresh hydrological study of the entire project area and come out with the facts," he said.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 18	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:38
RISE 04:40	SET 17:33
FRIDAY, MAY. 19	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:39
RISE 05:24	SET 18:28
SATURDAY, MAY. 20	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:39
RISE 06:10	SET 19:25

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	27
Mysuru	36	22
Bengaluru	35	24

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and uneasy . Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Gang assaults, robs private firm employee

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Govindapura police are on the lookout for a gang of five who assaulted and robbed a 26-year-old private firm employee while he was on a joy ride with a female friend in his car in the early hours of Saturday.

Based on the complaint filed by the victim, Inzamam B., the police registered a case against the local goon identified as Snake Shabaz and four of his associates and efforts are on to track them down.

The victim had stopped the car near Haj House late at night to get a bottle of water. The accused got into the car upon his return and assaulted him in front of his female friend. They later drove the car along with the victims and dropped the girl on Yaseen Nagar Main Road, before assaulting Inzaman demanding money. They took away his wallet containing cash of ₹27,000 and also removed his wrist watch. They also forced him to transfer ₹10,900 online and let him go and warned him not to tell anyone.

While Inzaman was still recovering from the shock, the accused started calling him demanding more money. Unable to bear the torture, he approached the police and filed a complaint.

FIR against suspended inspector for sexual assault

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kodigehalli police on Tuesday registered an FIR against a suspended Inspector of the same station for sexually harassing a 35-year-old woman in January this year.

The accused Inspector Rajanna had assured to help the victim in a cheating case in return for a sexual favour and started harassing her through text messages. Unable to bear the harassment, the victim complained to a senior police officer and submitted evidence in the form of text messages.

Based on the complaint, an inquiry was conducted and the report was submitted to the City Police Commissioner for further action. Based on the inquiry report which found him guilty, Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy suspended Rajanna in March this year and ordered further action. After completion of the procedure for the last five months, the police filed an FIR against Rajanna in the same police station charging him under sexual harassment and criminal intimidation.

Postal Department home delivers 19 tonnes of mangoes from farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The drop in mango yield this summer has affected the home delivery of mangoes initiative as well. India Post, along with Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Ltd. (KSMDMCL), has been able to home deliver 19 tonnes of mangoes this season in Bengaluru. Officials said this was a good turn around despite a low yield this year.

Through the initiative 'Karsiri', a door-to-door mango delivery service during the lockdown in 2020, the department had delivered 75 tonnes of mangoes in the entire season in 2021 and 70 tonnes in 2022. "Despite a low yield, we are able to home deliver 19 tonnes of mangoes in just over a month from April 5 to May 12," said a senior KSMDMCL official.

"Home delivery of mangoes is now available in 31 PIN Codes in various parts of Karnataka including Bengaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Mysuru, Belagavi, Mangaluru, Hassan, Mandya and other parts of the State," an official said.

One can choose 3 kg boxes of Alphonso, Badami, Apoos, Banganpalli, Kesar, Neelam, Himam Pasand, Sendur, and other varieties via the website. FILE PHOTO

How it works

You can order mangoes from www.karsirimangoes.karnataka. gov.in. One can choose 3 kg boxes of Alphonso, Badami, Apoos, Banganpalli, Kesar, Neelam, Himam Pasand, Sendur, and Mallika, and several other varieties of mangoes.

"The mangoes delivered home are free from the cancer-causing calcium carbide used for ripening. They are naturally ripened or come from KSMDMC-approved ripening chambers that use natural ethylene gas for ripening, a process accepted worldwide," an official said while explaining the entire process.

Mango mela shortened to 5-7 days this time owing to decreased yield in crop

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

For those in Bengaluru, the summer season is synonymous with the famed annual 'Mango Mela' organised in Lalbagh Botanical Garden where different varieties of the fruit are sold directly from farmers to consumers. This year, the mela is scheduled to begin in the last week of May, but instead of the usual 10-15 days, it will only be organised for five to seven days, according to officials of the Horticulture Department.

While a lesser yield is said to be one of the major reasons for the mela to be shortened, farmers alleged that the officials of Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited (KSMDMCL) told them that there were no funds to organise a larger mela.

Much of yield sold

"By now, 50% of mangoes produced in Ramanagara region have already gone to the market and been sold. The mangoes from Kolar will start arriving between the last week of this month and the second week of the next. The output has also been quite less this time and that is why we have decided to hold it for five to seven days," said Rajender Kumar Kataria, Principal Secretary, Horticulture Department. "Depending on the demand, we might provide a few days' extension to the mela," he added. District-level melas are also expected to begin by the end of May. The official also mentioned that as many officials got busy with elections, the scheduling and arranging for mela, took a backseat.

Damaged mango crop at Srinivaspura in Kolar district. FILE PHOTO

Further, Mr. Kataria also said that upon request from the Uttar Pradesh Mango Federation, the mango growers from that State would also be arriving here to sell their fruits. "We do not know yet if the dates will collide with the Mango Mela dates. But the varieties they would bring here would be different from what our farmers grow," he said.

Growers upset

Mango farmers from in and around Ramanagara and Channapatna, the prominent mango growing region of the State apart from Kolar, lamented that the department only caters to the market needs of Kolar farmers.

"I keep asking them why they organise melas considering when the output comes from Kolar and get no proper answers. We have finished 50-60% of our sales already. For whatever is remaining, rather than travelling to Madikeri for the mela, going to Bengaluru is beneficial as the customer base is larger there," said Dharanish Kumar, president, Kanakapura and Chanpatna Mango Growers' Association.

Different varieties of mangoes like Raspuri, Badami, Bainganpalli, Sakkargutthi and Mallika will be on sale at the mela.

Extension of property tax rebate requested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) councillors requested civic body Chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath to extend the 5% property tax rebate for one more month to citizens as the Model Code of Conduct was in place so far.

Every year, the civic body offers a 5% rebate on property tax till the end of April. On Wednesday, former Congress councillors M. Shivaraju and Abdul Wajid wrote to BBMP Chief Commissioner and said many citizens couldn't pay the property tax rebate since there were very few officials due to the Model Code of Conduct in place. Hence the 5% property tax rebate should be extended, they requested in a letter.

Police atrocity: probe ordered

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada Superintendent of Police Vikram Amate on Wednesday said an inquiry will be conducted into the allegations of police atrocity against nine persons accused of displaying a banner at Puttur demeaning BJP leaders Nalin Kumar Kateel and D.V. Sadananda Gowda.

Dr. Amate said the police learnt through social media that the accused were allegedly beaten up by the Puttur Town police. The Additional Superintendent of Police will conduct an inquiry to ascertain the veracity of the allegations and take action. The police have however not received any formal complaint of atrocity so far, he added.

A banner was found displayed near KSRTC bus stand in Puttur on Monday, bearing the name of 'aggrieved Hindu Karyakartas.' The banner, having the pictures of Mr. Kateel and Mr. Gowda, expressed 'Shraddhanjali' to the two for the defeat of the BJP in the Assembly elections. Footwear were also placed atop the banner.

Puttur Municipal Commissioner Madhu S. Manohar filed a plaint under the Karnataka Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, seeking action against unknown persons and got the banner removed.

'India in Space' wall museum unveiled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A wall museum titled 'India in Space' was unveiled on Wednesday by Indic Inspirations which is ISRO's first registered merchandiser.

The wall museum showcases the journey of ISRO over the last five decades starting from its initial days of Rohini, Aryabhatta to the launching the Chandrayaan moon missions, the Mars Orbiter Mission to the upcoming Human Space Programme – Gaganyaan.

According to Indic Inspirations, the wall museum will showcase more than 25 authentic models of technological artefacts of ISRO missions with a digital user interface and experience with additional information about each artefact.

The wall museum will showcase over 25 authentic models of technological artefacts of ISRO missions. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The space agency's Capacity Building Programme Office's director Sudheer Kumar said that when the idea was first thought about a few years ago, there was not a clear picture on how it would turn out.

"But what we see here today is a result of a committed team having worked towards an important goal. I am sure this would inspire students across schools. Given how important outreach is, even for us this is very inspiring," said Mr. Kumar.

Sunil Jalihal, CEO, Indic Inspirations, said the museum will showcase India's space achievements in a 7x7-feet wooden cabinet.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The approved fertilizer subsidy for the Kharif season by the Centre

1.08 In ₹ lakh crore. The Cabinet has approved ₹70,000 crore subsidy for urea and ₹38,000 crore for DAP and other fertilizers this Kharif season, as per Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. PTI

The Cabinet approves budget for PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT hardware

17,000 In ₹ crore. Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the scheme is expected to increase production to ₹3.35 lakh crore and investment to ₹2,430 crore. PTI

FPIs in Indian equities drop in the January-March quarter

11 In percentage. The value of FPI was at $542 billion in the March quarter of 2023, compared to $612 billion in the year-ago period. The decline in FPIs is due to the exodus of foreign money from domestic market. PTI

Sailors missing after Chinese ship capsizes in Indian Ocean

39 sailors. After a fishing vessel capsized in the Indian Ocean, 17 Chinese, 17 Indonesians and five Filipino sailors went missing at sea. The vessel is owned by Penglai Jinglu Fishery Company. AFP

The wildlife creatures rescued in Mumbai in the last three days

55 creatures. The Forest Department and the Resqink Association for Wildlife Welfare were flooded with calls about dehydrated animals stranded in residential areas. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The latest China-Canada kerfuffle

Why did the Canadian government declare Chinese diplomat Zhao Wei "persona non grata"? How did the Chinese government react? How is Michael Chong, an opposition lawmaker implicated in this row? Why were relations between China and Canada already strained?

EXPLAINER

Sumeda

The story so far:

On May 8, the Canadian government declared Chinese diplomat Zhao Wei "persona non grata," for allegedly targeting a Canadian lawmaker critical of China's human rights record. Hours later, China announced a "reciprocal countermeasure" by asking Jennnifer Lynn Lalonde, a top diplomat in the Canadian consulate in Shanghai, to leave the country by May 13. Tensions soared with China saying it holds the "right to take further actions in response", while Prime Minister Justin Trudeau put out a strongly worded statement, reiterating that Canada will not be intimidated.

What started the feud?

At the centre of the latest spat is a report from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). Earlier this month, *The Globe and Mail* added, to a series of media reports about growing Chinese interference in Canada, a report on an intel document from 2021 which detailed potential threats to opposition lawmaker Michael Chong and his family in Hong Kong over the latter's criticism of Beijing. Citing an anonymous national security official as its source, the newspaper reported that Chinese consul Zhao Wei was involved in gathering information about Mr. Chong and his family in Hong Kong to target him over his anti-Chinese sentiments and for further sanctions – to "make an example" of him and "deter others from taking an anti-PRC position."

In 2021, Mr. Chong led legislative efforts in Canada's House of Commons to declare China's treatment of Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang as "genocide". In response, Beijing barred his entry into China.

How did Canada react to the report?

After details of the CSIS report were revealed, the Canadian government was heavily criticised for its inaction against China. While Mr. Chong said that he was disappointed to find out about the risk to his family's life from a newspaper, Mr. Trudeau claimed he was not made aware of the intel by the spy agency. Internal deliberations followed about the future course of action, seemingly to prepare for any economic repercussions since China is Canada's second-biggest trade partner.

Tense relations: Chinese President Xi Jinping with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2016. AFP

On May 8, Canada declared diplomat Zhao Wei "persona non grata" (Latin for an unwelcome person). In a statement, Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly said that Canada would "not tolerate any form of foreign interference in our internal affairs." The Minister added that, "diplomats in Canada have been warned that if they engage in this type of behaviour, they will be sent home."

China responded strongly, warning of retaliatory measures. In a statement, the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa said Zhao's expulsion was "based on rumours of the so-called 'China interference' hyped up by some politicians and the media." Terming the move a violation of international law which had sabotaged China-Canada relations, the Embassy maintained that China never interferes in other countries' internal affairs.

Later, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin urged Canada to stop "unreasonable provocations". "If Canada does not listen to the advice and acts recklessly, China will fight back resolutely and forcefully, and the Canadian side must bear all the consequences arising from this," Mr. Wang said. Hours later, China issued an order asking Ms. Lalonde to leave the country by May 13.

What has led to strained Canada-China ties?

Diplomatic ties between China and Canada have been unsteady for the past few years, especially after Canadian police arrested Huawei Technologies executive Meng Wanzhou on charges of fraud in 2018. A few days after her arrest, China detained two Canadians on spying charges – a move then called "hostage diplomacy". After years of a stand-off, all three were freed by their respective nations in 2021 after a deal was reached to release Ms. Meng.

During that period, China suspended imports of canola from Canada, alleging pests in the shipment. The ban was, however, lifted last year amid a global shortage of food in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war. Since then, the rift has widened.

Canada alleged that the Chinese government attempted to interfere in the 2019 and 2021 federal elections – a charge Beijing vehemently denies. The two countries are also engaged in a technology battle. While Canada has limited the presence of Chinese firms in its communications infrastructure, Beijing believes the restrictions were imposed without any solid evidence.

The tension between the leadership was also visible at the G-20 summit in Indonesia last year, when Chinese President Xi Jinping and the Canadian PM exchanged barbs over leaked details of their meeting about Chinese interference in domestic affairs.

THE GIST

- The Canadian government declared Chinese diplomat Zhao Wei "persona non grata," for allegedly targeting a Canadian lawmaker critical of China's human rights record. Hours later, China announced a "reciprocal countermeasure" by asking Jennnifer Lynn Lalonde, a top diplomat in the Canadian consulate, to leave the country.
- Diplomatic ties between China and Canada have been unsteady for the past few years, especially after Canadian police arrested Huawei Technologies executive Meng Wanzhou on charges of fraud in 2018.
- The tension between the leadership was also visible at the G-20 summit in Indonesia last year.

Why are financial regulators transitioning from LIBOR?

What is LIBOR? What is the controversial story surrounding the global benchmark interest rate? What happened during the 2008 global financial crisis?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

On May 12, the RBI stated that some banks and financial institutions were yet to facilitate an absolute transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) benchmark. They had not inserted fallback clauses into all their financial contracts that reference U.S.$ LIBOR or the corresponding domestic Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR). Both LIBOR and MIFOR would cease to be a representative benchmark from June 30 this year.

What is LIBOR?

LIBOR is a global benchmark interest rate that combines individual rates at which banks opine they may borrow from each other (for a particular period of time) at the London interbank market. It is used as a benchmark to settle trades in futures, options, swaps and other derivative financial instruments in over-the-counter markets (participants engaging directly without using an exchange) and on exchanges globally. Further, consumer lending products including mortgages, credit cards and student loans, among others, too use it as a benchmark rate.

Every business day before 11 a.m. (London time), banks on the LIBOR panel make their submissions to news and financial data company, Thomson Reuters. The panel consists of commercial bankers such as J.P. Morgan Chase (London branch), Lloyds Bank, Bank of America (London branch), Royal Bank of Canada and UBS AG, among others. Following the submission, the contributed rates are ranked. Extreme quartiles, on the top and bottom, are excluded and the middle quartiles are averaged to derive the LIBOR. The idea is to be as close to the median as possible.

What was the controversy around it?

The central flaw in the mechanism was that it relied heavily on banks to be honest with their reporting disregarding their commercial interests.

It must be noted that the rates were made public. Therefore, it would not be particularly useful to impress upon potential and current customers the various disadvantages in obtaining funds. The phenomenon was particularly on display during the 2008 financial crisis when submissions were artificially lowered (amid the crisis). In 2012, Barclays admitted to the misconduct and agreed to pay $160 million in penalties to the U.S. Dept of Justice. The *Wall Street Journal* too had studied in May 2008 that several panelists were paying "significantly lower borrowing costs" than what other market measures were suggesting. Another observed phenomenon was the tendency to alter (higher or lower) the submission as per the entities' trading units' derivative positions to acquire more profits.

Do we have an alternative in place?

Yes, in 2017, the U.S. Federal Reserve announced the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) as a preferred alternative. Accordingly, in India, new transactions were to be undertaken using the SOFR and the Modified Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MMIFOR), replacing MIFOR.

As stated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), it is based on observable repo rates, or the cost of borrowing cash overnight, which is collateralised by U.S. Treasury securities. Thus, making it a prevailing transaction-based rate and drifting away from the requirement of an expertise judgement as in LIBOR. This would make it potentially less prone to market manipulation.

How are we responding to the regime change?

The RBI had stated in its November 2020 bulletin that, in India, exposures to LIBOR are from loan contracts linked to it and Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts (FCNR-B) deposits with floating rates of interest and derivatives. In August the same year, the banking regulator had asked banks to assess their LIBOR exposures and prepare for the adoption of alternative references rates. Contracts entered after (or before, if possible) December 31, 2021, were not to use the LIBOR as reference rate. More importantly, contracts entered before the date were to have fallback clauses, that is, an agreement for revised considerations when the reference rate is no more published – important for transparency and consistency.

THE GIST

- On May 12, the RBI stated that some banks and financial institutions were yet to facilitate an absolute transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) benchmark.
- LIBOR is a global benchmark interest rate that combines individual rates at which banks opine they may borrow from each other (for a particular period of time) at the London interbank market.
- In 2017, the U.S. Federal Reserve announced the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) as a preferred alternative.

Supporters of Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar holding placards outside 10, Janpath in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Congress leader Siddaramaiah's supporter showing victory sign in Bengaluru. PTI

Congress workers pouring milk on Siddaramaiah's poster, near his residence in Bengaluru. PTI

D.K. Shivakumar, his brother D.K. Suresh and party leaders in New Delhi after meeting AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge.

Has a 'weak' Cong. high command failed to break the deadlock on CM candidate?

AICC general secretaries Randeep Singh Surjewala and K.C. Venugopal have been convening meetings between D.K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, but are as yet unable to break the stalemate; the party had faced similar problems in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Congress chief D.K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with party leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

The absence of a strong and authoritative leadership with vast negotiating skills at the AICC is said to be one of the reasons behind the failure of the Congress to break the deadlock on the chief ministerial candidate issue in Karnataka, amidst a massive majority of 135 seats.

The Congress Central leaders have been unable to as yet patch up the differences between two regional satraps KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Both are refusing to climb down from their adamant stand, thus holding up the announcement of the name.

In the earlier years, when Congress was a formidable presence, the likes of the late Makhanlal Fotedar, the late R.K. Dhawan, the late Ahmed Patel and Ghulam Nabi Azad used to command respect among party leaders across the country. Their experience and negotiating skills used to help the party arrive at a consensus on choosing the chief ministerial candidate and allocation of ministerial berths to leaders, a senior Congress leader said.

AICC general secretaries such as Randeep Singh Surjewala and K.C. Venugopal have been convening meetings between the leaders, but are as yet unable to break the stalemate on the chief ministerial candidate.

Kharge's role

Though AICC president M. Mallijarjun Kharge has vast experience of over five decades, he has been largely depending on the official word of former AICC president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. More importantly, Mr. Kharge, who hails from Karnataka, would dislike being called partisan by supporting one candidate for the top job.

Citing an example from even the recent past, the leader said, for instance, that in 2018, the then Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Ahmed Patel struck a deal with the JD (S) and installed the JD (S)-Congress government led by H.D. Kumaraswamy, on the very day of the poll result. Mr. Azad quit the Congress and Mr. Patel passed away in November 2020.

Now, in States such as Rajasthan, Congress leader Sachin Pilot and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot are at loggerheads, while Congress lost its government in Madhya Pradesh owing to "incompetence" of the central leadership, another leader said.

Claims, counter-claims

Mr. Shivakumar has led the party to a spectacular victory, but Income Tax and ED cases pending against him have come in the way of him occupying the coveted top job, while Mr. Siddaramaiah has the support among all sections of the society, particularly OBCs, Scheduled Castes, and Muslims, sources close to Mr. Siddaramaiah maintained.

However, a leader close to Mr. Shivakumar argued that him being denied the top job could lead to "The Veerendra Patil moment." The Vokkaliga vote could shift to the JD (S) in the coming general elections, recalling how the unceremonial removal of Veerendra Patil by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had alienated Veerashaivas from the party in the 1990s and led to their shift to the BJP.

The Karnataka Congress leaders said the finalisation of the chief ministerial candidate could at worst only be delayed by a day or two. Congress MLC Ravi, who is camping in Delhi, said that both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar are eligible for the post. Mr. Shivakumar fought strongly when the party was going through a tough phase, while Mr. Siddaramaiah is one of the tallest and highly experienced leaders of the State. "Both the leaders are eligible for the post. The high command will take a final call after consultations in the next one or two days," he said.

Jumping the gun

Meanwhile, the Central leaders reportedly expressed their displeasure over KPCC Mahila Congress president Pushpa Amarnath and Ramadurg MLA Ashok Pattan for announcing to the media that Mr. Siddaramaiah's name had been finalised for the post of Chief Minister. Ms. Amarnath tweeted a congratulatory note to Mr. Siddaramaiah, only to delete it later.

Talking to media, Ms. Amarnath stated that it was confirmed that Mr. Siddaramaiah's name has been finalised for the post, and it is going to be announced officially in a short time. She said former AICC chief Rahul Gandhi had spoken to Mr. Siddaramaiah.

AICC general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala has reportedly directed the Congress leaders not to comment on the Chief Minister's post.

From Page One

Two BJP leaders blame Siddaramaiah

Both the BJP leaders are Vokkaligas, the same community to which Mr. Shivakumar belongs. Their claims came before a crucial meeting in Delhi to decide the next Chief Minister. In July 2019, 17 MLAs from both the Congress and JD(S) quit their parties and resigned as MLAs. Later, they contested the byelections as candidates of the BJP.

Mr. Sudhakar tweeted: "During the JD(S)-Congress coalition government in 2018, whenever MLAs went to the then Coordination Committee Chairman Siddaramaiah with their concerns, he used to express his helplessness and say that he has no say in the government and his constituency/district works itself are stalled." He went on to claim: "Further, Siddaramaiah used to assure MLAs to wait till 2019 Lok Sabha polls and come what may he won't allow H. D. Kumaraswamy-led coalition government to continue even for a single day after Lok Sabha polls. Ultimately some of us had to inevitably quit Congress."

Dr. Sudhakar remarked, "Can Siddaramaiah deny the fact that he had a role, implicitly or explicitly, in this move by Congress MLAs?"

In a similar move, Mr. Somashekhar tweeted: "Despite being chairman of co-ordination committee, Siddaramaiah always expressed his helplessness to address the concerns of MLAs during the Congress-JD(S) coalition government. No one can deny the truth that this pushed some of us to quit the party."

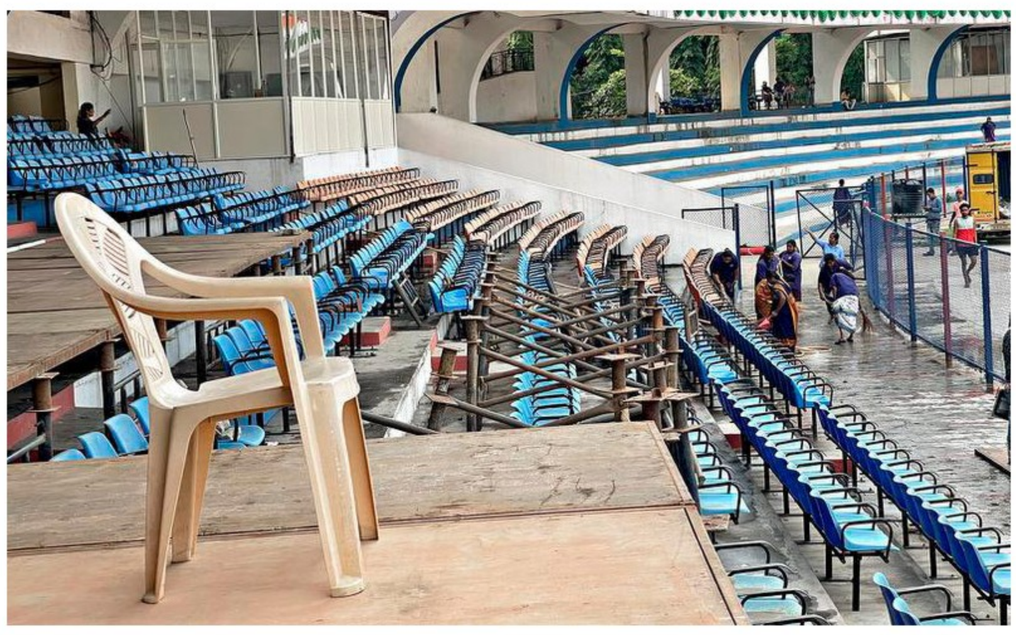
Fake news leads to premature celebrations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The delay in choosing the next Chief Minister by Central leaders of the Congress triggered the spread of fake news and premature celebrations on Wednesday.

Supporters of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah danced on the roads amid speculation of him being selected for the Chief Minister's post. Some poured milk on his posters in Bengaluru. While the Congress was expected to announce its decision on the chief ministerial candidate on Wednesday, rumours spread in the morning that the party high command had decided on Mr. Siddaramaiah as the next CM. A fake "invitation" from Raj Bhavan of Mr. Siddaramaiah's swearing-in ceremony on Thursday went viral on social media. As the rumours gathered pace, AICC incharge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala was forced to clarify to the media in Delhi that the party was yet to make its choice.

Twist in the tale



Preparations began in earnest at the Kanteerava Stadium on Wednesday afternoon for the swearing-in ceremony of the new Chief Minister said to be scheduled for Thursday afternoon. Senior police officials visited the stadium and inspected the preparations. This coincided with reports that Congress leader Siddaramaiah has been chosen as the next Chief Minister and celebrations broke out in his native village in Mysuru. However, hours later, political dynamics changed and the swearing-in was put off. Later in the day, traffic police claimed they were only inspecting the stadium for arrangements for a marathon scheduled for Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR & PTI

Somanna dubs Cong. regime as 'double-steering' govt.

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Defeated BJP candidate from Varuna Assembly constituency in Mysuru V. Somanna took a dig at the Congress regime as a "double steering" government.

Speaking at a function organised to thank the BJP workers in Mysuru on Wednesday, he referred to the Congress leaders' repeated complaint that the "double engine" government of the BJP had made no contribution and said he was awaiting what the Congress' "double steering" government would deliver.

Though he did not directly spell out the tug of war between former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar for the Chief Minister's post, Mr. Somanna left nobody in doubt when he said one leader was swerving to the right while the other was pulling towards the left. "We don't know where it will stop," he said.

Bhartendu Academy of Dramatic Arts
Unit of Bhatkhande Culture University, Lucknow
An Autonomous Institution under the Department of Culture, Govt. of U.P
Admission Notice
Master in Dramatic Arts
(Full Time Residential Course)
Academic Session 2023-24

Applications are invited for Mater of Dramatic Arts conducted by Bhartendu Natya Akademi which imparts comprehensive professional training in Acting, Direction, Designing and Theatre Techniques etc.

Medium : Hindi & English

Essential Qualification: Graduation from a recognized university. Good Knowledge of Hindi & English. Working experience of seven plays & comprehensive study of Indian & Western plays.
Age Limit : 20-30 Years as on 01.07.2023
(Five Years relaxation in age limit for S.C/S.T./O.B.C candidates.)
Reservation: As per rules.
Selection: Through preliminary written test and interview. The Candidates which have qualifying in above test will have to attend a workshop for final selection.
Tuition & Hostel Fee: As per Academy's Rules.
Fee: Fee is chargeable for the training.
Seats: 20
Facilities: As per month Scholarship, Hostel, Wi-Fi, Library etc.
Application: Admission form can be obtained from B.N.A. office on payment of **Rs. 500/- by cash or bank draft in favour of Director, Bhartendu Natya Akademi, Lucknow.** Or downloaded the form from the **website : www.bnalko.in** and can be submitted along with D.D of Rs 500/-
Last date of submitting the duly filled application forms is 05.06.2023
Note
1. Written & Interview exam will be held on 19 & 20 Jun, 2023 at 10.00 A.M and workshop for final selection will be held on 21, 22 & 23 Jun, 2023 at Academy Campus.
2. Candidates will be provided accommodation on a modest sharing basis for final selection workshop.

Prof. Dinesh Khanna
Director

RO no: - 189427
RO date : - 17/5/23
website- www.upgov.nic.in

"Bhartendu Bhawan" Vikas Khand-1, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010
Phone: 0522- 2300598; Website : www.bnalko.in ; Email : bna.lko@gmail.com

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

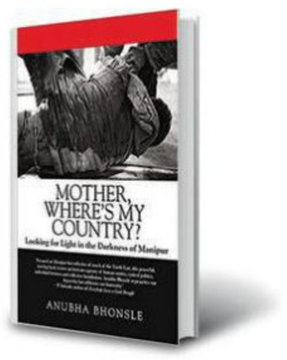
Ravi G. Narayan
May 4th, 1962 - May 10th, 2023

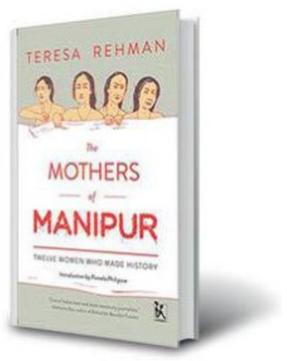
You were an epitome of deep love, benevolence and dutifulness.
You inspired and uplifted innumerable people through your charitable work.
You will continue to live in those hearts forever, especially ours.
Your legacy will go on. Rest in peace.

Deeply mourned by

Mrs. Visalakshi Ganapathy, M/s Rathika Ganapathy
Mr. Sury Subban and Family, Mr. S. Padmanabhan
Mrs. Sowmya Ravi Narayan
Mr. Ganapathy Hari Narayan, Mrs. Arunima Sharma
Family and Friends.

BIBLIOGRAPHY





Constant unease: Meitei refugees wait onboard a paramilitary truck after being evacuated from violence-hit Churachandpur in Manipur on May 9. AFP

In the face of violence, Manipuri women writers have forged a new path

Manipuri women have played a huge role as agents of change and protest. However, they are also the ones who bear the burden of picking up the pieces after every act of violence takes lives and leaves their homes destroyed

Sudipta Datta

The spiral of violence that has gripped Manipur from May 3 leaving more than 60 dead and scores injured will have brought back a familiar sense of unease in a State not unused to such flareups in the past. The latest conflict was triggered by a 'Tribal Solidarity March' against the Manipur High Court's March 27 order that revived an old demand to give the majority Meitei community Scheduled Tribe status. The grouse of the dominant hill tribes belonging to Nagas and Kukis is that the Meiteis who live in Imphal Valley, are in a majority and already have a bigger say in the affairs of the State. It's a complex situation and needs careful handling as Sanjoy Hazarika writes in his book *Strangers No More: New Narratives from India's Northeast* (2018).

Talking about the Northeast, he says: "...the core issues facing the States are: politics, policy, law and disorder, violent uprisings and painful reconciliations, offence and defence, conservation and oppression, history and the contemporary reality, stereotyping and breaking out of the mould, hope and despair." Most of these issues plague Manipur as well. It has seen long stints of unrest due to insurgencies and other factors which have led to the State being under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act since 1958, and thereby hangs many tales, not least the extraordinary hunger strike by rights activist Irom Sharmila from November 2000 to August 2016 demanding the law's repeal.

Picking up the pieces

Manipuri women have played a huge role as agents of change and protest, be it women warriors of the Nupi Lan who fought in the 1904 and 1939 wars or the Meira Paibi women and their night vigils to keep their sons safe from army atrocities. They also largely bear the burden of picking up the pieces after every act of violence which takes lives and destroys homes. In *Crafting the Word: Writings from Manipur*, edited by Thingnam Anjulika Samom, 26 women writers and a visual artist share their experiences (in Meiteilon or Manipuri, Tangkhul and English) "of being a woman in a patriarchal order". In the Introduction, Samom says that the writers, including four Sahitya Akademi winners – Maharaj Kumari Binodini, Sunita Ningombam, Arambam Ongbi Memchoubi and Moirangthem Borkanya – talk about their "negotiations and compromises with society and tradition and their struggles to grow and forge a new path."

Several writers reflect on the impact of conflict on the lives of women. In 'My Children's Photographs', Ningombam Satyabati chronicles the story of a mother who has lost her children and husband in a bomb blast; Maya Nepram writes about the struggles of ordinary people in the time of conflict in 'Crimson Tides'; Mufidun Nesha captures a mother's helplessness in her poem 'At the Morgue' (Of those taken away beyond the gate/Of those concealed, disappeared,/The destination is the morgue.); Tonjam Sarojini's poem 'Don't Wait' chronicles the atrocities carried out under AFSPA. Nahakpam Aruna's essay, 'The Journey of Women's Writing in Manipuri Literature' is also a social, cultural and literary history of the Meiteis and indigenous tribes down the ages. She writes about the third generation of women writers, born between 1960 and 1980, who witnessed a "further deterioration of the social fabric, the sharpening divide among communities, widespread violence, ethnic clashes and extra-judicial killings by both the underground and state armed forces," and lived to write about them.

Experiencing violence

Reporting from the ground for his book *Despite the State*, M. Rajshekhar recalled how even in chance meetings in Manipur he found that people – or someone close to them – had experienced violence. For her book, *Mother, Where's My Country*, journalist Anubha Bhonsle conducted close to 200 interviews, pored over dozens of documents and court testimonies and revisited places to describe the "stories and silences of people" she met and spoke to. "Effects of a conflict persist differently among different people," she writes in the introduction for the stories from Manipur she gathered – "stories of struggle and loss, of closure or a lack of it, of denial of memory and justice."

If Bhonsle's starting point is Irom Sharmila's fast, Teresa Rehman writes about the women who ripped their clothes off in front of Kangla fort in Imphal to protest against the rape of Thangjam Manorama by jawans of the Assam Rifles in 2004. In her book, *The Mothers of Manipur: Twelve Women Who Made History*, each mother or *Ima* recounts her act of defiance, with Ima Nganbi saying she remembers shouting, "We are all Manorama's mothers. Come and rape us."

Hazarika, who was part of the Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee set up after the rape of Manorama, writes in his book about a mother at a hearing who told them: "I wish to say just one thing to you. I wish simply that no mother of this country goes through what I have gone through. That is my only wish." There is a long history of protests, police firings, and blockades in the State. The chapter, 'The Manipur Cauldron', explains the reasons why communities are pitted against one another in the State, and the difficulties in arriving "at any formula which would be acceptable to all sides."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

In the NBA draft lottery held today, San Antonio Spurs got the rights to the first pick, widely expected to be Victor Wembanyama. Here's a quiz on NBA Draft top picks

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1
Which NBA player was the last high school player to be drafted No 1? And in which year?

QUESTION 2
If Wembanyama is picked No 1, he will be the first player picked from a non-U.S. playing team (overseas away from the U.S.) since 2006 when X was picked. Name X and the country to which he belonged to.

QUESTION 3
This player, picked No 1 in the late 1990s went to play for 12 NBA teams, just one short of the record 13 (held by point guard Ish Smith who is still active). Name him.

QUESTION 4
This NBA player was drafted No 1 by the San Antonio Spurs but went to play for the team two years after the draft as he spent the years fulfilling his active-duty obligation with the U.S. Navy. Name him and the nickname by which he was widely known.

QUESTION 5
In the 2010s, which two teams won the right to pick first in two consecutive years?

Visual question:
Name this basketball player who was picked first in the same draft as Michael Jordan (who was picked third). GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This is a literary genre in prose or verse that illustrates or leads to a particular moral lesson. **Ans: Aesop's Fables**
2. This Danish author was said to be inspired by this collection of West Asian folk tales. **Ans: Hans Christian Andersen; *Arabian Nights***
3. One of the popular fictional characters created by this author is Rusty. This 1980 novel of his was later adapted into a 2005 Hindi film by the same name. **Ans: Ruskin Bond; *The Blue Umbrella***
4. Franklin W. Dixon is the pen name used by different authors who were part of a team that wrote this mystery series for children and teens. **Ans: Hardy Boys**
5. This is a character created by Johnny Gruelle. **Ans: Raggedy Ann**
6. The name of the fictional character who is red-haired, freckled and superhumanly strong. **Ans: Pippi Longstocking**
Visual: Identify this 1996 children's film based on a novel of the same name by this author. **Ans: *Matilda*; Roald Dahl**
Early Birds: Vaibhav Jain| S. M. Moulya| Indra Sharma| Divyesh Chouhan| Adya Upasana Routray

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subramanian

"Good morning, sir."
"Good morning. Well, read out the first question."
"Sir, Mrs. A. Aao, Kohima, Nagaland, wants to know the difference between 'eat' and 'eat up'."
"You know the meaning of 'eat'. You eat up something when you consume it entirely.
Come on! don't stare at your breakfast. Eat it up.
He ate up all the idlies.
It is also used figuratively.
She enjoys listening to Krishna's speeches. She eats up every word of his.
You are said to be eaten up with jealousy when you are full of it. It can also be used with words like 'curiosity', 'desire', etc.
He was eaten up with desire for her.
You can also say 'We ate up hundred miles an hour'. This expression is used when you travel very fast."
"Sir, how is the past tense of 'eat' pronounced?"
"The past tense of 'eat' is 'ate'. It is pronounced 'et'. 'Et' rhymes with 'bet'."
"Sir, doesn't it rhyme with 'fate' and 'hate'?"
"Yes, it does. In Britain, some people do pronounce it that way. But the most usual pronounciation in Britain is 'et'. In American English, it is pronounced like the word 'eight'. It rhymes, as you say, with 'fate', 'hate'. Americans consider 'et' substandard."
"Sir, what is the difference between American and British English?"
"I'll answer your question later. I can't answer it in one sentence. Bernard Shaw said jocularly that America and Britain are two countries divided by the same language. Well, what's the next question?"
"Sir, several readers would like to know the meaning of 'as it were' and how to use it"
"As it were means 'so to speak', 'as if it were really so', 'if one might so put it'.
He was, as it were, her Yama.
He was, as it were, the clown of the party!"
"Sir, Mr. R. Manoharan, SMQ 78B, Air Force Station, Arjangarh, New Delhi, doesn't find the word 'expunction' in his dictionary. He wants to know whether the word exists."
"Yes. 'Expunction' is the noun form of 'expunge'. 'Expunge' means 'to delete', 'cancel'.
His remarks relating to the Prime Minister were expunged.
The expunction of the remarks of the MP created a commotion in Parliament."
"Sir. Mr. M. Dasaradhudu, Electrical Fitter, Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, wants to know the pronunciation of 'against'."
"The first 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. 'Ai' is pronounced like the 'e' in 'bed'. 'Nst' is pronounced like the 'nst' in 'instant'. The stress is on the second syllable. Well, let's stop here."
"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."
"Goodbye. Have a nice week-end."
Published in The Hindu on January 19, 1988.

Word of the day

Sycophant:
a person who tries to please someone in order to gain a personal advantage

Synonyms: toady, lackey, crawler

Usage: *He surrounds himself with sycophants.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/sycophantpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: 'sɪkəfænt/, /'sɪkəfənt/, /'saɪkəfænt/, /'saɪkəfənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

IIT-Madras ties up with Israeli govt. for water security

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has partnered with the Israeli government to ensure water security in the country.

The India-Israel Centre of Water Technology (CoWT) that will come up on the institute campus, will customise Israeli technologies for Indian requirements and pilot sustainable technologies in the country. IIT-M Director V. Kamakoti and Secretary in the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Manoj Joshi signed a letter of intent in New Delhi last week.

The MoHUA will collaborate with Israel's agency for International Development Cooperation Mashav.

To help Amrut mission

The new centre will help the Ministry's Amrut mission besides pursuing joint activities to implement technological solutions through separate agreements.

Lior Asaf, water attache, Embassy of Israel, said the new state-of-the-art Israeli technology and know-how would be introduced.

Mr. Kamakoti said the collaboration will work on conservation and proper use of water.

India and Israel will work closely to enhance capacity building of Indian water professionals at all levels and demonstrate latest technologies besides holding exhibitions of Israeli water companies.

IIT-Madras Professor T. Pradeep said water security in India depended on implementing advanced and affordable technologies besides efficiently managing resources. "There is much to learn from Israel, a leader in the area, under the guidance of Amrut Mission," he said.

Specific projects related to integrated water resources management, urban water supply and non-revenue water, water and sewage recycling, IoT solution and online monitoring, water harvesting, smart data management and AI, were on the anvil.

Israel was represented by Naar Gilon, Israel's Ambassador to India. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Israeli counterpart Eli Cohen were present at the event.

No heli tourism during Nilgiris summer festival: Madras HC

'Fragile eco-system and vulnerability of region cannot be a victim of crass commercialism'

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court, on Wednesday, said, "The fragile eco-system and vulnerability of this bio-diverse region cannot be the victim of crass commercialism, that too in such an unplanned and careless fashion." It said this while restraining the Tamil Nadu government from permitting heli tourism as part of the ongoing summer festival in the Nilgiris this month.

The petitioner raised apprehensions over the harm frequent operation of helicopters could cause to wild animals and birds in the fragile eco-system. REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Justices Anita Sumanth and M. Nirmal Kumar disapproved of the steps taken by Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) and the Nilgiris district administration to grant permission to a private firm for conduct of heli tourism from the Theetukal helipad situated at a distance of about 3 km from Udhagamandalam.

The judges said the records placed before the court established "the abject sidelining of the forest department, the wildlife wardens (of the tiger reserves and national parks in the Nilgiris biosphere) and other relevant persons who should have been involved in the decision-making process for a project of this nature."

The verdict was passed while allowing a writ petition filed by T. Murugavel of Chennai who claimed to be owning properties in the Nilgiris.

The Bench led by her went on to pronounce the judgment by taking into account the apprehensions raised by Senior Counsel R. Srinivas with respect to the harm that the frequent operation of helicopters, as part of the summer tourism festival, could have on wild animals and birds in the fragile eco-system.

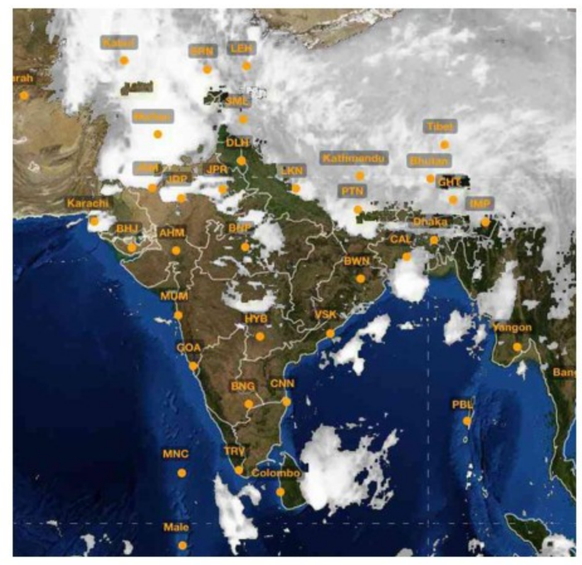
No document

"There is not a single document produced before us to indicate seeking of or grant of clearance for the heli tourism project by the forest officials after consultation with wildlife wardens of the national parks/ sanctuaries. This is not just curious but indicates abject non-application to the relevant considerations on hand," the Bench wrote.

The judges went on to state: "The authorities / administration cannot, but be aware of and sensitive to the special features and demands of the area in which they are posted and serve and the apparent and blatant disregard in this case, leaves us baffled."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1	31.2	23.0	Kozhikode	—	37.2	29.4
Ahmedabad	—	41.5	27.8	Kurnool	—	41.8	27.1
Aizawl	—	33.5	19.4	Lucknow	—	41.7	25.2
Allahabad	—	44.2	26.8	Madurai	—	40.4	26.4
Bengaluru	—	35.5	23.6	Mangaluru	—	34.7	26.3
Bhopal	—	—	24.5	Mumbai	—	33.2	27.0
Bhubaneswar	—	38.2	22.0	Mysuru	—	36.2	21.7
Chandigarh	—	41.2	24.4	New Delhi	—	41.1	25.4
Chennai	—	39.4	30.1	Patna	—	38.3	25.7
Coimbatore	—	37.2	25.4	Port Blair	—	32.6	26.2
Dehradun	—	37.8	21.2	Puducherry	—	41.0	28.8
Gangtok	3	20.2	14.5	Pune	—	39.3	22.6
Goa	—	36.4	26.0	Raipur	—	41.4	27.9
Guwahati	25	30.2	19.6	Ranchi	—	39.8	24.6
Hubballi	—	39.0	22.0	Shillong	11	21.2	12.8
Hyderabad	—	39.5	27.2	Shimla	—	26.2	17.4
Imphal	12	28.4	18.5	Srinagar	—	27.9	11.5
Jaipur	—	40.6	30.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.1	27.0
Kochi	—	33.4	28.4	Tiruchi	—	39.3	28.0
Kohima	—	18.6	13.6	Vijayawada	—	38.4	28.2
Kolkata	—	37.7	27.0	Visakhapatnam	—	36.0	20.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	1	.14	156	183	
Bengaluru	.26	.11	100	103	107	
Chennai	3	138	114	130	100	
Delhi	.34	154	.54	270	347	
Hyderabad	.57	.50	.95	88	129	
Kolkata	8	.12	.21	47	80	
Lucknow	.10	.23	.36	378	401	
Mumbai	2	.40	128	53	67	
Pune	108	153	116	123	88	
Visakhapatnam	.17	.32	.20	60	105	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Charkhi Dadri, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 375 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

With decent storage level, Mettur Dam likely to be opened on June 12

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

With a comfortable storage in the Mettur dam in Salem district, water release on the scheduled date, June 12, looks imminent. There is talk of advancing the date, but senior government officials say no decision has been taken yet.

As on Tuesday, the storage in the Mettur dam is around 70 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft), about 6 tmc ft short of the quantum available on the corresponding day last year.

The dam's total capacity is 93.47 tmc ft.

In 2022, as the dam received an unusually heavy inflow in the second half of May, the government started water discharge from May 24.

There is no indication that it will happen this year too. But water resources and agriculture officials have been put at ease by the India Meteorological Department's forecast of "normal to above normal" rainfall in the peninsular region during the southwest monsoon (June-September).

Groundwater table

The State received more than normal rainfall during the northeast monsoon (October-December) in the past three years. So, there were no worries over the groundwater table.

Farmers in the Cauvery delta have started raising the short-term Kuruvai crop, driven by a combination of various factors.

As on date, nearly 71,500 acres of land has been covered, against 58,000 acres last year. In the other parts of the State, the coverage is around 65,500 acres as against about 64,000 acres last year.

As of now, 4.36 lakh tonnes of fertilisers – including 1.66 lakh tonnes of urea and 1.86 lakh tonnes of complex – are available.

Secunderabad to Tirupati Vande Bharat fully booked

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The first trip of the Secunderabad-Tirupati 'Vande Bharat' Express with 16 coaches got an overwhelming response from the passengers with 109% bookings on the very first day on May 17.

The service began with eight coaches last month but consistent high patronage (more than 130%) in both the directions has led to Railways doubling the number of coaches to increase the 530 to 1,128 seats – 104 seats in executive class and 1,024 seats in chair car. A total of 1,228 passengers made their train booking before the start of the train journey.

The indigenously developed train has several world-class features like a GPS-based passenger information system, automatic sliding doors, reclining seats, CCTV cameras in all coaches, diffused LED lighting, charging points beneath every seat etc., providing better riding comfort and more safety features, said a press release.

Jolly had confessed to killing family members: Son

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Although two prosecution witnesses turned hostile in the Koodathayi serial murder case recently, the testimonies of two other key witnesses, including the son of the prime accused Jolly Joseph before the trial court, have unravelled the alleged planning and execution of the six suspected murders in the Ponnamattam family between 2002 and 2016.

Deposing before the Special Additional Sessions Court (Marad cases) on Tuesday, Jolly's son testified that his mother had revealed to him about the details of the planned elimination of six of the family members by serving them food laced with pesticide and cyanide when the case was under investigation after the arrest of the suspects by a special investigation team on October 5, 2019. He also testified in the court that his mother was pretending to be a professor with the National Institute of Technology- Calicut until she revealed the truth to him subsequent to the police probe. The witness examination commenced at the trial court in Kozhikode on March 7.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients intend to purchase the schedule property from its owner **B.R. SUJAY,** son of late K.P. Ramachandra, who represents that he is the sole and absolute owner in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property.

Any person/s, banks, institutions having any right, title, interest or claim/s over the schedule property or anyone having any objection/s about the above mentioned transaction may write to the undersigned within **15 (fifteen)** days from the date of publication of this notice along with documentary evidence, on which they are basing their claim, failing which my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s, objection/s of whatsoever nature.

:SCHEDULE:

Property bearing **No. 2, (Old No. 210), PID No.53-152-2,** 14th Main Road, Banashankari 1st Stage, 2nd Block, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.156, Srinagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West: **44.6** feet, North to South: **30** feet, totally measuring about **1338** square feet, together with a house constructed thereon and bounded on the:

East by : Property bearing No.246,
West by : Road,
North by : Property bearing No.210/A,
South by : Property bearing No.211

K.P. RAMDAS,
Advocate
No.418/31-2, 18th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 041
Mob: 9341218392

Bangalore Dated: 17/05/2023

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department)
KARNATAKA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
III Floor, Grameenabhivruddhi Bhavana, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone No.: 080-29710021/ 22/ 23/ 24 Fax: 080-29710025
E-mail: coo.krrda.karbng@kar.nic.in Website: http://www.krrda.in

No: KRRDA/TECH/11/208/TND NOT-3/2023-24/214 Date: 17-05-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (3rd CALL)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency invites Item Rate Tenders through e-Procurement Portal for Package Works pertaining to **Pradhana Manthri Grama Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) III.**

Sl. No.	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)		EMD with respect to Amount Put to Tender	Period of Completion (including Monsoon)
	Minimum	Maximum		
1	200.00	800.00	2.00% of Amount put to tender.	• Above Rs. 2.00 Crore to Rs. 3.00 Crore - 9 Months • Above Rs. 3.00 Crore - 11 Months

Calendar of tendering events are as follows:

1	Pre Bid Meeting	26-05-2023 at 11.00 Hrs.
2	Last Date for Online Submission of Bids	01-06-2023 upto 16.30 Hrs.
3	Opening of Technical Bid	02-06-2023, 16.35 Hrs.
4	Opening of Financial Bid	After Completing the Technical Bid Evaluation of the respective works.

1) The Class-I Contractors who have registered in PWD / CPWD are eligible for participation. Award of contract depends on technical capability, work carrying capacity and financial resourcefulness of the bidders as per the norms of Tender document. **2)** For any further information regarding tendered work, the concerned Executive Engineer, Project Division may be contacted. **3)** Details can be availed from the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the list of works can be obtained from **http://krrda.in**

Sd/-
Tendering Officer and Chief Operating Officer, KRRDA, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/62/Adverto/2023-24

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD(In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	South - 2	BWSSB/EES2/TO/PB/67/ 2023-24 Date: 15.05.2023	Rs. 51,10,704/- / Rs. 1,02,300/-	29.05.2023 upto 4:00 p.m.	31.05.2023 after 4:00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(South-2).

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

2	West - 2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/112/ 2023-24 Date: 15.05.2023	Rs. 18,72,512/- / Rs. 46,900/-	05.06.2023 upto 3:00 p.m.	07.06.2023 after 3:00 p.m.
3		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/114/ 2023-24 Date: 15.05.2023	Rs. 91,67,342/- / Rs. 1,83,400/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer(West-2).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/60/2023-24

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli , Bengaluru - 560 038. Ph: 080-25191039
e-mail:contactus@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

Bid No.: BMRCL/O&M/CSW/L2/02/2023-24 Date: 18.05.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Providing Architectural and Design Consultancy Services for Development works of Staff Quarters near Peenya Depot"** . Estimated Cost: **Rs. 43.00 Lakhs.** Tender Security Amount: **Rs. 86,000/-.** Sale Period of tender document through Online: **18.05.2023 to 12.06.2023 (Till Midnight).** Date & time for submission of tender: **17.06.2023 (from 11.00 hrs to 1500 hrs.).** Date & time for opening of tender: **17.06.2023 (at 15.30 hrs).** Cost of tender document: **Rs.11,800/-.** Completion period: **18 months.** Tender can be downloaded from BMRCL website. For more information visit **https://tender.bmrc.co.in**

Sd/- Executive Director (O & M)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGCO25521)

No: EEE/AEE(O)/JE(E)/MWD/DVG/2023-24/Cys-1468-77 Date: 16.05.2023

NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited have formulated the following scheme under section 67 of The Electricity act 2003 & the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67(2) (C), of the said act for information to the public.

1. Name of the work: A) Establishing 2x8 MVA, 66/11kV Sub-Station At Hosahally (Gummanuru) and Construction of 66kV LILO line on DC towers from existing 66kV Davangere-Chitradurga line-1 to the proposed 66/11kV Hosahally (Gummanuru) S/s for a distance of 3.55 kms with Coyote Conductor in Davangere Taluk, Davangere District on Partial Turnkey Basis including Supply of all matching materials/ equipments (Excluding 8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer and 11kV Switchgear) and erection (Including Civil works) of all materials/equipments, Testing and Commissioning"

2. Approximate length of the Lilo Line: 3.55 KMs

3. Approximate cost: Rs.7.47 Lakhs.

4. New Line Passing through the following villages.

Areas passing through: Hunasekatte, Mandaluru, Katenahally & Hosahally (Gummanuru) **village limits of Anagodu Hobli, Davangere Taluk & Dist.** Davangere, **Hobli: Anagodu, Name of the Village: Hunasekatte,** Survey Nos.: 29, 30, 33, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43 & 44. **Mandaluru,** Survey Nos.: 15, 16, 17, 20, 25, 26 & 27. **Katenahally,** Survey Nos.: 43, 44 & 45. **Hosahally (Gummanuru),** Survey Nos.: 5 & 35.

KPTCL shall have & exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities possess under part III of the Indian Telegraphs Act 1885(13) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objections or discrepancies regarding the above scheme shall be sent the office of **Executive Engineer (Ele), Major Works Division, K.P.T.C.L, Near stadium, Hadadi Road, DAVANAGERE, Within 30 days** from the date of publication of this notification for KPTCL pursuance.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer (Ele),
Major works Division, KPTCL, Davangere.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/F-895-906 Date: 17.05.2023

BRIEF RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against this office tender indent No.

Bid enquiry No: KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9635/CALL-7 tender for the work of transportation (To & Fro), repair of Sick Power Transformer and Testing, Assembling, Erection and Commissioning of repaired power transformer of rating 20MVA, 110/33-11kv Class, Spec-Make, Sl.No-42896, Year of Manufacture-2011 Power Transformer failed at 110kv S/S M K Hubli in TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Belagavi and laying at SRS Huballi on Total Turn Key basis on Percentage Tender Basis.

The detailed notification regarding the works called through the "E-procurement" mode can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/**on or after **4:00pm** on **18.05.2023.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Neharu Nagar, Belagavi-590010

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management, Dasappa Hospital Premises, N.R Road, Bengaluru-560 002.

No: EE-3/SWM/TEND/09/2022-23 /CALL-2 Dated: 17.05.2023

SHORT TERM-TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd CALL)

(Through e-Procurement Portal GOK website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management, invites tenders from eligible bidders for outsourcing man power service - SOLID WASTE INSPECTORS for Solid Waste Management Activities in 02 packages.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	No of Manpower	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Providing the services of Solid Waste Inspectors to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike-Package-1 (East, Bommanahalli, Mahadevapura & RR Nagar zones)	110	7.31 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh though e procurement portal & remaining 6.31 Lakhs through Bank Guarantee)
2	Providing the services of Solid Waste Inspectors to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike-Package-2(South, West, Dasarahalli & Yelahanka zones)	105	7.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh though e procurement portal & remaining 6.00 Lakh through Bank Guarantee)

Calendar of events: 1) Last Date for receipt of Tenders on 26.05.2023 upto 4.00 p.m. 2) Last date for uploading queries on 19.05.2023 up to 2.00 p.m. 3) Pre-Bid Meeting on 20.05.2023 at 4:00 p.m. 4) Date of Opening of Technical bids are on 29.05.2023 by 4.30 p.m. or next working day. 5) Opening of financial bids will be intimated to technically qualified bidders.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management

Timely caution

The top court has rightly cautioned probe agencies against crossing limits

The Supreme Court's exhortation to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) not to create an atmosphere of fear indicates how much the agency needs to temper its zeal in investigating allegations against political opponents of the current regime. Responding to complaints that the ED is harassing employees of the Excise Department in Chhattisgarh in the name of investigating the money-laundering aspects of an alleged liquor scandal, a Bench has made the pertinent point that even a *bona fide* cause would seem suspect if a law enforcement agency conducted itself in a way that created fear. The observation is both a caution against transgressing the limits of a lawful investigation and a warning against letting a perception gain ground that the agency would go to any lengths to implicate someone. Given that several leaders and Ministers from States ruled by parties other than the BJP have been summoned by the ED, or arrested and imprisoned, not many will be surprised at the charges levelled on behalf of the Chhattisgarh government that the agency is running amok and that its officers were threatening State officers, in an alleged bid to implicate the State's Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel. These charges may or may not be accurate, but the core problem is that the number of political adversaries under the agency's adverse notice is unusually high.

A major complaint from the Opposition concerns the alleged politicisation of investigations and the personnel heading the agency. Some parties fear that the money-laundering law is being used for a political witch-hunt. The list of offences that may attract a money-laundering probe, over and above the police investigation into them, is quite long. Corruption allegations being quite common against politicians holding public office, each time a scam or a scandal is uncovered, the ED follows closely on the heels of the agency conducting the anti-corruption probe, to register a separate case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. While there is no problem with a stringent law on the subject, its executors have to be cautious about excessive zeal and expansive probes without identifying specific payoffs or following a money trail. The current Director of Enforcement was appointed for a two-year term in 2018, but continues to this day, thanks to extensions and a change in the law governing such extensions. The government has now assured the Supreme Court that he will not continue beyond November 23. The government often says the agency is only doing its duty and holding lawful investigations, but the perception of others is unlikely to be positive in the backdrop of the way it controls the agency's leadership.

Predictable counter

Introspection will do India good in areas where it faces international criticism

There was little surprise about the manner in which the government reacted to the U.S. State Department's report on India, and other countries, dealing with religious freedoms. The report, which was released by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, lists a number of incidents of "concern" over the "continued targeting of religious minorities". It also documents hate speech by leaders across the country, which includes members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The report was followed by a briefing by a senior official who said that according to the U.S. Holocaust Museum, which tracks majoritarian trends, India is ranked eighth among 162 countries on the risk of "mass killing", a serious allegation. A Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson said the report was based on "misinformation and flawed understanding", and that the official's commentary was "motivated and biased". The rejection of the report is in line with India's past reaction, as both the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), as well as the U.S. State Department Report that bases itself on USCIRF recommendations, have been increasingly critical of India. They have noted that senior U.S. officials have repeatedly "encouraged" New Delhi to condemn religious violence and hate speech, indicating that they have not been successful. To this, the MEA has said that it "values" its U.S. partnership and have "frank exchanges".

While the government's reaction is stern, it is by no means as harsh as its response to a similar report last June, where the MEA had accused the U.S. government of catering to "vote bank politics". For one, the report has come out just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Japan, as well as Mr. Modi's state visit to the U.S., in June; it is likely that the government does not wish to queer the pitch publicly. The government may also recognise that while the State Department has been searing in its criticism, it has not placed India in the list of "Countries of Particular Concern" so far, as the USCIRF has often recommended. Given the consistent reportage on religious persecution in India by the U.S. government, however, New Delhi may wish to engage with the allegations made, and come out with its own report on the state of religious freedom in the country to counter it. As Mr. Modi wrote in a letter to a resident of Jammu and Kashmir, the world is drawn to India because of the "natural and instinctive love" Indians have for diversity. The government must find more comprehensive ways to repudiate any unfounded and incorrect challenges to India's reputation, and remediate in the areas it is found wanting.

Two judgments and the principle of accountability

M.R. Madhavan

is with PRS Legislative Research, New Delhi

Two Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court of India delivered important judgments last week. The first case decided that the Delhi government headed by the Chief Minister – and not the Lieutenant Governor appointed by the central government – will control civil services working for the Delhi government. The second case involved the formation of the current government in Maharashtra following the "split" in the Shiv Sena party.

Contradiction of a core principle

Both judgments, which were unanimous, were authored by the Chief Justice of India; they explain the constitutional position clearly. However, the Maharashtra judgment contradicts the core principle applied in the Delhi case. The problem arises from the fact that the Maharashtra judgment adheres to the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (the anti-defection law), which, at its heart, is incompatible with the structure underlying parliamentary democracy.

The issue in the Delhi case was to determine whether the civil services in the Delhi government would be accountable to the Delhi cabinet or to the Union government. Delhi is a Union Territory with a legislature, and the demarcation of powers is spelt out in Article 239AA. The Supreme Court stated that parliamentary democracy implied a government accountable to the people. The judgment explains that this entails a triple chain of command: civil service officers are accountable to Ministers; Ministers are accountable to the legislature; and the legislature is accountable to the electorate. Severance of any link of this triple chain would be antithetical to parliamentary democracy. Therefore, the civil services will have to report to the Delhi Cabinet.

The Maharashtra judgment dealt with a sequence of events that included several petitions under the anti-defection law. Two factions of the Shiv Sena had issued contradictory whips, and the Maharashtra Speaker had recognised the whip of one of the factions (which claimed more Members of the Legislative Assembly) as representing the party. One of the questions considered by the Court was to determine which faction had the right to appoint the leader and whip of the legislature party – and, therefore, have the power to issue binding directions on every member of the party in the Assembly.

The Court ruled that the Tenth Schedule makes a differentiation between the legislature party and the political party. The legislature party includes all MLAs/Members of Parliament belonging to the political party. It determined that the power to issue directions was with the political party, and not the legislature party. Therefore, the person in charge of the political party (who may not be a member of the legislature) would control every vote of the MLAs/MPs of that party. Failure to adhere to such direction by any MLA/MP would lead to disqualification.

> In reinforcing the idea that an MP/MLA is not accountable to the electorate, the Maharashtra verdict breaks the triple chain of accountability, which is an underlying principle of the Delhi judgment that dealt with the control of civil servants

Thus, this judgment further entrenches the power of the party leadership over the legislature. It reinforces the idea that the MP/MLA is not accountable to the electorate but only to the party that fielded them in the election. In doing so, it breaks the triple chain of accountability, which is an underlying principle of the Delhi judgment.

Indeed, the judgment decries the possibility of legislators being elected on the basis of their affiliation to a party, later disconnecting with that party. It goes on to say that the Tenth Schedule guards precisely against this outcome. Again, this position is different from that taken in the Delhi judgment. There, the Court states that the government is assessed daily in the legislature through debates on Bills, questions raised during Question Hour, resolutions, debates and no-confidence motions. If the legislators of the party with a majority in the House have to abide by the directions of the political party, the very idea of a daily assessment by the legislature becomes meaningless. The party leadership controls the vote of its legislators on each issue, and, therefore, the government is guaranteed to win every vote, including a no-confidence motion, unless any legislator is willing to forgo their membership in the House.

The problem lies here

The judges had no choice but to make such contradictory conclusions. In the Delhi judgment, they were clarifying the gaps in the Constitution by using standard interpretation methods. In the Maharashtra judgment, they were bound in their interpretation by the clear language of the Tenth Schedule. The problem lies in the very idea of the anti-defection law, which contradicts the democratic principle of accountability of legislators to their voters.

The anti-defection law is based on the assumption that any vote by an MP/MLA against the party direction is a betrayal of the electoral mandate. This is an incorrect interpretation of representative democracy. While party affiliation is an important element in elections, it is not the sole criterion for voters. The Supreme Court has recognised this principle in the case where it mandated that all candidates must disclose information related to their criminal record, assets and liabilities, and educational qualifications in order to allow voters to take an informed decision. If voters only cared about party affiliation, why should the other characteristics of candidates matter? Indeed, election results also contradict the assumption that voters look only at the party affiliation of candidates.

For example, in Karnataka, by-elections were triggered due to the defection of several Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) MLAs in 2019, just months after the general election; 13 of the defectors contested on a Bharatiya Janata Party ticket, and 11 of them were re-elected. Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh, 15 of the 22 MLAs who defected won the ensuing by-elections. The electorate thus endorsed the candidate and not the original party that had won a couple of years earlier.

Need for a relook

The constitutional design of a parliamentary democracy envisages a chain of accountability. The accountability of the government to the legislature is on a daily basis, and legislators have to justify their actions to their voters in every election. The anti-defection law upends this design by breaking both links of the chain. Legislators have to obey the party diktat even if that comes in the way of holding the government accountable. In turn, they can easily take refuge in their lack of freedom to make decisions if their constituents question them. This is clearly a violation of the central principle of parliamentary democracy, which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

In 1992, a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court ruled that the anti-defection law did not violate the basic structure. A re-examination of this issue would require a larger Bench.

The Maharashtra judgment has referred one aspect to a seven-judge Bench. The question is whether a Speaker facing a notice of removal can decide on disqualification petitions. Two five-judge Benches have reached opposite conclusions on the Speaker's ability to make independent and impartial decisions. The seven-judge Bench, while hearing that case, must expand the question to examine whether the anti-defection law violates the basic structure. It is time to reclaim the accountability of governments to the people.

A desperate Israeli leader plays the security card

Talmiz Ahmad

is a former diplomat

The five-day Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Gaza ended in a truce on May 13. In this war, the Israelis had carried out targeted assassinations of six commanders of the radical Palestinian group, Islamic Jihad. The latter had responded with several hundred rocket attacks, which led to 250 Israeli air strikes in which 33 Palestinians were killed and several more injured; one Israeli was killed and 45 people injured. There were skirmishes in the West Bank as well.

Over the last four months, Israel has been in the grip of demonstrations against the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that is seeking wide-ranging changes in the country's judicial system. The need to restore Mr. Netanyahu's authority and credibility is linked with the escalation of confrontations in the occupied territories.

Israel's extreme right in power

Israel's elections last November, the fifth since 2019, showed a significant shift in favour of the country's ultra-orthodox and ultra-nationalist parties. Mr. Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister, facing criminal charges for fraud, bribery and breach of trust, had no choice but to form a coalition that included Israel's extreme right-wing parties (the Religious Zionism party of Bezalel Smotrich and the Otzma Yehudit of Itamar Ben-Gvir) and include their leaders in his cabinet.

The extreme right has a clear-cut agenda: besides pursuing tough policies towards Palestinians, it also seeks a "reform" of the country's judicial system, which is viewed as upholding Palestinian rights and being hostile to the ultra-religious community. In January, four Bills were introduced in the Knesset to effect the required changes: they diluted the court's powers of judicial review, gave the executive greater say in the selection of judges, and also sought to protect the Prime Minister from criminal proceedings. However, the government was totally unprepared for the ferocity of the opposition to these changes. The demonstrators have included businesspersons, professionals, workers, and even military reservists. In the face of such fury, on March 27, Mr. Netanyahu grudgingly announced a "time-out" in the implementation of the changes, saying this was "to prevent the nation from being torn apart".

> The need to restore Benjamin Netanyahu's authority and credibility is linked with the escalation of confrontations in the occupied territories

The agitations have revealed the deep split in Israeli society between those seeking to protect the country's liberal order from the increasing influence of the ultra-orthodox. Thus, this is an intra-Jewish divide. Generally, both sides uphold Jewish superiority over the Arabs and Israel's control over the occupied territories, and neither voices support for Palestinian aspirations.

Netanyahu fights back

Given Mr. Netanyahu's cunning and strong survival instincts, observers have been surprised by his failure to anticipate the strength of the opposition to the judicial initiatives. Through April, it became clear that his reputation had been severely tarnished – he was widely seen as a leader who placed his personal interests above the country's democratic order.

These negative assessments were reflected in polls: over two-thirds of Israelis supported judicial review and opposed changes in selecting judges; more than half of them faulted the administration for governance failures. Public opinion swung in favour of the opposition; polls showed that, as against the 64 seats won five months ago by the parties in government, they would now win just 50, while the National Unity Alliance led by Benny Gantz would move from 12 seats to 28 seats, becoming the largest party in the Knesset.

It is in this background that Mr. Netanyahu has played the "security" card. Already, at the end of March, there had been reports that the government would try to divert popular attention from the judicial changes by highlighting a "security threat" from the Palestinians or the Iran-backed Hezbollah. Soon thereafter, on April 5, Israeli forces attacked the Al-Aqsa Mosque and arrested 300 Palestinians, setting the stage for tit-for-tat violence. Israeli media anticipated a major military operation "to bolster the coalition's legitimacy in the eyes of the public".

The ground for the next stage of violence was carefully prepared by Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. He said on April 20 that "the era of limited conflicts" was over, and that Iran was mobilising multiple anti-Israel fronts that would include Palestinian militants in Gaza and Lebanon, the Hezbollah and other Iran-backed militants in the region. He also provided details of massive financial transfers from Iran to these militants.

A few days later, Israeli media highlighted the Defence Minister's focus on the impending "multi-front war". It was said that Israel's enemies had been emboldened by widespread anti-government agitations over the previous four months and perceptions that the United States was distancing itself from Mr. Netanyahu.

This is the backdrop to the latest round of Israeli-Palestinian violence. The Associated Press reported on May 11 that, after weeks of Mr. Netanyahu's plunging popularity, "the bombardment of Gaza has united the country against a common threat and appeared to put the seasoned leader back in control". Mr. Netanyahu has begun to project himself as the country's unifier and saviour. The latest polls show a gain of three seats for his party.

The next few weeks will show whether Mr. Netanyahu will survive in office on the basis of this blood-letting. Or, whether the Israeli people will see through the machinations of their cynical and wily leader and seek his speedy departure from office.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Court on ED inquiry

It is appropriate to mention here that the perpetrators of any sort of crime in India understand that most of the time, only strong-arm tactics are what can get the truth out — as the popular Hindi saying goes, "*Seedhee unglee se ghee nahin nikaltee*". At the same time, it is also true that the law-enforcing agencies perform their duties selectively at their master's bidding. This should not happen, and is exactly what the Supreme Court wants to highlight (Page 1, "Don't create atmosphere of fear, court cautions ED", May 17).

K. Nehru Patnaik,
Visakhapatnam

AI's impact

In a recent survey in the United States, a significant number of people (61%) expressed negative views about Artificial Intelligence (AI) for various reasons. There is some fear that AI could lead to job losses and a decrease in employment opportunities. Concerns regarding privacy and security have also emerged as AI systems handle personal data. The lack of transparency in AI decision-making processes raises questions about accountability. Scepticism arises due to biases in training data that can result in discriminatory outcomes. Ethical concerns are being raised over the potential use of AI in weapons or decision-making scenarios. India must take note of such views.

A. Mohamed Kani,
Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

A blank screen

The reason given by the Tamil Nadu government, that the screening of the film, *The Kerala Story*, was stopped "owing to reasons including poor audience response", and consequently was withdrawn voluntarily by theatre owners themselves, has to be taken with a sack of salt. Any film, novel or play that finds itself courting controversy will evoke the curiosity of the audience. It is obvious and quite safe to conclude that politics has played its hand in the film's "disappearance" from theatres in Tamil Nadu.

Avinash Godboley,
Dewas, Madhya Pradesh

Part and parcel of Chennai

Sport has the intrinsic ability to create relationships. Think of some of the most familiar ones: Roger Federer and Wimbledon as well as Rafael Nadal and the French Open. And one such relationship that has defined the Indian Premier League ever since its introduction has been Dhoni and Chennai Super Kings ('Sport' page, May 16). No cricketer in the history of IPL has mattered so much to a particular franchise as much as Dhoni has to CSK. There can never be any question about his legacy with CSK regardless of when he chooses to retire.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Kerala: an exemplary story in palliative care

Devi Vijay

is Professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta

Achapan (70) lives with his wife, daughter, and his grandson atop a hill in Wayanad, Kerala. He built his two-room house through a State housing scheme for Scheduled Tribes. He worked as a daily-wage labourer till he had a stroke at his work site in 2009. Since then, he has had multiple episodes of hospitalisation. For follow-ups and medicines, Achapan walked at least 12 km through the hilly terrain to the nearest government medical facility. In 2018, a Wayanad-based community palliative care organisation arranged weekly home visits by a nurse and a volunteer team for Achapan. They provide free medicines and doctor visits when required. In these ways, the community organisation provides 'total care.'

A global exemplar

The World Health Organization (WHO) considers palliative care as an approach to improve the quality of life of patients and families confronting life-threatening illnesses such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The 2018 Lancet Commission on palliative care and pain relief refers to such conditions as 'serious health-related suffering' that requires physical, social, spiritual, and emotional support alongside medical intervention. More than 80% of individuals who experienced serious health-related suffering in 2015 were from low- and middle-income countries. As a middle-income country with an ageing population and a growing non-communicable disease burden, how equipped is India to deal with large-scale serious health-related sufferings? Quite poorly as India struggles with approximately 4% coverage for palliative care unevenly anchored around mega cities. In sharp contrast with the rest of India, Kerala's palliative care model is a global exemplar in inclusive care infrastructure.

In 1993, Dr. M.R. Rajagopal and his student, Dr. Suresh Kumar, experimented with a pain relief clinic for terminally-ill cancer patients at the Government Medical College, Kozhikode. This experiment mushroomed over the years into more than 400 community palliative care organisations across Kerala, driven by volunteers and nurses, with doctors' home care on a need-basis. Volunteers from diverse social groups looked beyond terminal cancer, including what was then considered unconventional conditions for palliative care such as spinal injuries, HIV/AIDS, and geriatric cases. Volunteers also understood the social suffering of families in their neighbourhood when confronted with such conditions. An early volunteer reflected that "where doctors know symptoms, volunteers understand suffering". The community identified that "the patient's suffering is 20% medical, 80% social" and reframed care. Community ownership brought in home-based 'total care', i.e., medical, social, financial, bereavement, and rehabilitative support for patients and families. Kerala was experimenting with a community model distinct in scale and scope from hospital-based approaches in the rest of the world.

By 2004, community organisers felt the need for the State's involvement. What began as the Pariraksha project with Malappuram panchayats cascaded into a landmark palliative care policy introduced by the Left Democratic Front government in 2008. Over time, all 14 districts provided palliative care, with mandates at the primary, community, and tertiary levels.

Certainly, an evolving healthcare field creates new challenges. For example, metrics for evaluating palliative care delivery are primarily developed for hospitals and hospices in the Global North. Public health integration remains uneven across Kerala. Nevertheless, through 30 years of this evolving model, we now see the societal consequences and spin-offs. As per the 2018 Lancet report, Kerala has a network of over 841 of India's 908 palliative care sites – one of the largest palliative networks in the world.

Further, community mental health initiatives have spun off from Kerala's palliative care movement. Kerala mobilised palliative networks for relief work during the 2018 floods. It was arguably the only Indian State where the government routinely referenced palliative care during COVID-19 briefings. Overall, Kerala's community palliative care model merits attention as a global exemplar, not just for healthcare, but also for broader social and public innovations.

Practice implications

Firstly, only 14% of patients who need palliative care worldwide receive it, highlighting the limited access and affordability of hospitals and hospices. Kerala's community model covers more than 60% of the patients. The Institute of Palliative Medicine in Kozhikode and Pallium India in Thiruvananthapuram are nodal organisations offering training informed by the community approach for doctors, nurses, and volunteers. Second, public health palliative care integration debunks myths about the "impossibility of public health infrastructure in India" or that "the State cannot deliver healthcare".

The State and the community created possibilities for the private sector, creating a 'crowding-in effect.' Here, private healthcare must offer better standards than public and community organisations for patients to choose the former. Finally, the Kerala story exemplifies how diverse groups of people – across religious, caste, and gender divides – forged solidarities to create care infrastructure. These community organisations are strong reminders of how people organise across differences.

Kerala shows how diverse groups of people — across religious, caste, class, and gender divides — forged solidarities to create care infrastructure

'Three capitals' in Andhra Pradesh

The government's decision has brought the development of Amaravati to a halt

STATE OF PLAY

V. Raghavendra
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The Andhra Pradesh government's decision to have three capitals – Visakhapatnam as an executive capital, while Amaravati and Kurnool as legislative and judicial capitals, respectively – brought the development of Amaravati to a grinding halt three years ago.

Farmers who gave lands for it allege that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been desperate to shift to Visakhapatnam just because he is loath to continue what his predecessor N. Chandrababu Naidu had initiated in Amaravati. They insist that the three capitals are a failed experiment.

As a consequence of the decentralisation move which is intended to achieve balanced development of all regions, the infrastructure created at a huge cost in Amaravati, including villas for High Court judges and senior IAS officers, most of which neared completion during the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) regime, is now lying in the dumps.

What happens to this massive investment in the event of the government getting the clearance by courts to shift to the port city and the impact of such a shift on future land acquisitions are questions that are difficult to answer. Given the government's refusal to budge from its stand on the three capitals, the fate of Amaravati appears to be all but sealed.

The story of 'three capitals' started in 2019 when Mr. Reddy made the proposal in the Legislative Assembly much to the chagrin of about 25,000 farmers who gave 34,400 acres under the land pooling

scheme (LPS) for the development of Amaravati. Before this, in 2014, the stage for Amaravati was set by Mr. Naidu, who wasted no time in shifting from the common capital of Hyderabad to Andhra Pradesh soon after the bifurcation of the unified State.

By choosing the Vijayawada-Guntur region as the location of State capital, Mr. Naidu went on to create infrastructure on a large-scale, starting with the laying of arterial roads and the construction of the Interim Government Complex (IGC). Within no time, Amaravati caught global attention due to some hard-selling by Mr. Naidu, who got the master planning done by U.K.-based Foster + Partners.

The Amaravati project was going on full steam till the 2019 elections when Mr. Reddy's Yuvajana Shramika Rythu (YSR) Congress Party stormed to power and soon after the change of guard came the idea of three capitals. It came as a shocker to the multitude of farmers who approached the High Court for justice.

The HC delivered its verdict in their favour in March 2022. However, the farmers' joy was shortlived as instead of implementing the writ of *mandamus* passed by the HC, the State government sought at least five years to complete the development of Amaravati by citing various excuses and went on to challenge the HC's judgment in the Supreme Court. The case is posted for a fresh hearing on July 11.

This is where the development of Amaravati is stuck as there is no change in the government's stand in favour of decentralisation, while the legal battle continues to rage in the top court.

If the government gets to move to Visakhapatnam, it has to put the infrastructure in Amaravati to use to not waste the money spent on it and may also have to pay a massive compensation to farmers for violating the agreements entered with them. Against this backdrop, Mr. Reddy keeps making statements that he will start functioning from Visakhapatnam in a few months.

Even as the whole project is entangled in the Supreme Court and the High Court, the government is providing house sites to economically weaker sections (EWS) in about 1,200 acres in the proposed R-5 zone in Amaravati. This is notwithstanding the High Court judgment dated March 3, 2022 in the three capitals case that no third-party interest can be created on lands given for development of the capital city.

After the High Court refused to impose a stay on the EWS housing scheme in Amaravati, the farmers filed a special leave petition (SLP) in the apex court, challenging the allotment of house sites to beneficiaries from the EWS hailing from across the State.

The government is going by its hunch that the people will reward it for taking up decentralisation in the form of votes next year.

Clearly, garnering votes is the underlying objective of the 'three capitals' plan and the government is sounding pretty confident about it. Will it actually pay off remains a million-dollar question.

The indirect impact of T20s on Test cricket

Since 2007, there has been a significant reduction in the number of Tests ending in draws

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Ever since the introduction of T20 matches in cricket, scoring rates in all formats of cricket have increased and coincidentally, risk-taking by batsmen has also gone up. The increased risk-taking by batsmen in pursuit of quicker runs has seeped into other forms of cricket. This has, in turn, allowed bowlers to have higher probabilities of inducing mistakes and taking wickets in these formats, unlike T20s, which allow for only 20 overs and a maximum of only four overs for each bowler.

As a result, formats such as Tests, which are not as disadvantageous to bowlers as T20s, allow them greater leeway and opportunities to grab wickets, which could in turn lead to more decisive matches or conversely fewer drawn matches. There are several other factors that determine whether a Test is decisive or not – pitch conditions, for e.g., but all things considered equal, it seems that bowlers have a greater opportunity besides the ability to bowl out batting lineups and secure victories for their teams.

To verify if this hypothesis about Test cricket holds true, we divided the history of Test cricket into four eras – 1877-1939 (274 matches), 1940-1974 (476), 1975-2006 (1075) and 2007-2023 (678) and looked at the proportion of drawn Tests to the overall in each of these eras. There are specific reasons to classify Test matches based on these periods.

Between 1877 and 1939, there were more than a few "timeless" Tests played which were per force held to produce a result (although this did not always work). Tests were also played on uncovered pitches for the most part during this period, rendering an advantage to bowlers. Fully covered pitches reportedly were used in Australia from 1954-55 and went on to become the norm later in other parts of the world over a period of time.

The next era, 1940-1974, comprises of Tests played before the introduction of limited overs cricket, while the succeeding period, 1975-2006, coincided with the burgeoning of the one-day internationals (ODIs) which also saw the introduction of helmets and protective equipment and enforcement of rules such as limitation on the number of bouncers that could be bowled in an over.

Finally, 2007 marked the year when the first Twenty20 World Cup took place and within a year, the IPL bonanza began. Interestingly, 2008 was also the year when the decision review system (DRS) was introduced, which clearly has had an impact in terms of umpiring becoming more aggressive with leg-before-wicket (LBW) decisions, and therefore helping bowlers and aiding in making matches more decisive.

Chart 1 shows the highest percentage of drawn matches occurring in the pre-ODI period (and after 1939). The lowest share of drawn matches every year happened during the T20 era (2007 onwards). **Table 3** quantifies the numbers – prior to 1939, 28% of all Tests were drawn, and this went up to 42.23% between 1940 and 1974, reduced to 34.33% in the ODI era (1975-2007) and reduced drastically to just 20.65% since 2007. A decadal look at this metric (% of drawn tests) also shows a significant fall in the 2010s and 2020s (**table 2**).

Chart 4 takes a decadal look at the duration of Tests (including rest days) over time. While Tests are getting more decisive in the post-2007 period, more Tests are getting completed before the fifth day – an indication of the prowess of Test bowling. In sum, bowlers may get the rough end of the stick in T20s by design, but this has also helped them thrive in Tests played in this era.

Quick and decisive

The data were sourced from ESPNcricinfo and scraping was made possible with the help of Yashaswi P., Arghya Roy, Ayush M., Maharnav S., Tanveer Ul M., Aishani P., and Rewanth T. (students at IIIT-Hyderabad). Inputs from S. Ram Mahesh

Chart 1: The chart shows the share of drawn Test matches during different periods — pre-1940s, pre-ODI period, ODI period and T20 period

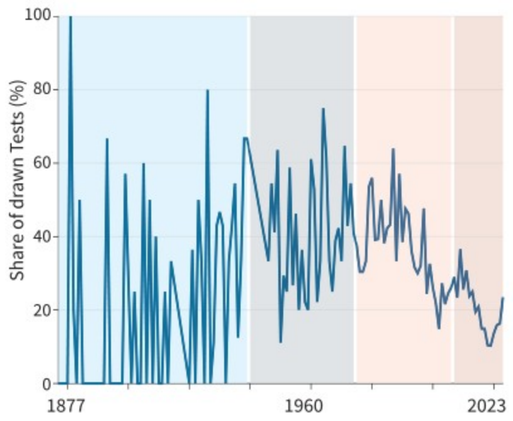


Chart 4: More Tests ended in 3-4 days since the 2000s than in the past. The chart shows the share of days taken for Tests across decades (including those with rest days)

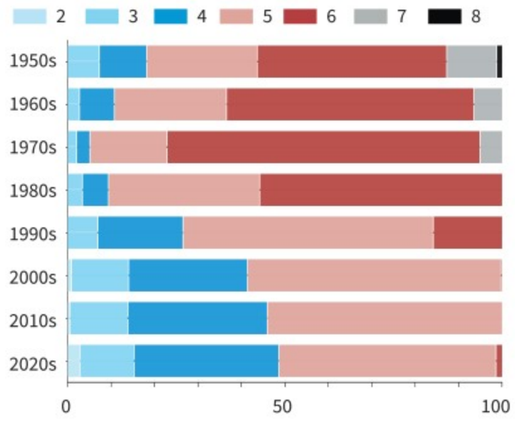


Table 2: The table shows the share of drawn Tests in each decade. It also lists the median average of the top 20 batsmen besides the number of batsmen averaging over 50 in each of these periods

Decades	Matches	Draws	Drawn%	Median	Average above 50
Pre-1900s	64	10	15.63	48.91	7
1900s	41	10	24.39		
1910s	29	4	13.79		
1920s	51	16	31.37		
1930s	89	36	40.45		
1940s	45	22	48.89		
1950s	164	51	31.10	43.68	5
1960s	186	88	47.31	48.97	7
1970s	198	84	42.42	49.24	7
1980s	266	122	45.86	47.31	5
1990s	347	124	35.73	45.79	5
2000s	464	114	24.57	54.15	21
2010s	433	84	19.40	50.76	13
2020s	126	21	16.67	51.15	11

Table 3: The table shows the share of drawn Tests, median average and batsmen averaging above 50 across different periods

Category	Matches	Draws	Drawn%	Median	Average above 50
1879-1939	274	76	27.74	48.91	7
1940-1974	476	201	42.23	51.32	13
1975-2006	1,075	369	34.33	52.055	19
2007 onwards	678	140	20.65	53.03	17
Grand total	**2,503**	**786**	**31.40**		

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 18, 1973

Communication between France, Australia cut

Sydney, May 17: Trade union bans aimed at severing all Australian contact with France went into force to-day, despite a plea from the Prime Minister, Mr. Gough Whitlam, that the action would harm Australia's case at the World Court against French nuclear testing in the Pacific. In protest against the tests, due to resume in the next few weeks, trade unions have cut communications between Australia and France, and banned all work on French aircraft and ships. The French airline, UTA, has cancelled its four flights weekly to Sydney because of the withdrawal of servicing facilities and the Australian National Airline, Qantas, has diverted its trans-Pacific flights from Papeete to Honolulu following retaliatory threats from Tahitian unions. The Prime Minister contacted the communication unions yesterday to warn them that their blacklisting would be in contravention of international agreements and could prejudice Australia's case at the Court of Justice in the Hague. From midnight yesterday, all mail and telegraphic communications to and from metropolitan France, including those to the French Embassy and the consulates here, were halted completely.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 18, 1923

Canal project in Bengal

Calcutta, May 17: A communique explaining the position regarding the grand trunk canal project emphasises the necessity for maintaining direct steamer route between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal. The existing route has been threatened by the silting up of the Doagra channel, but an alternative route has been opened by cutting through the neck of the land between Gheapatty Khal and Channel Greek. This appears likely to be successful, but it is too early to come to a conclusion. Even as the results of this experiment are pending, the government has decided to postpone the construction of the grand trunk canal. If the results show that the new channel and the rest of the Sunderbans route will be satisfactory, there will be no actual need for the grand trunk canal, but in the meanwhile, the government must be prepared for the necessity of constructing the canal and must proceed with all preliminary arrangements.

From Page One

Siddaramaiah is likely choice of high command

From rotating the chief ministership in a power-sharing arrangement to offering Mr. Shivakumar the Deputy Chief Minister's post along with his KPCC president's post, various options were being discussed in the public domain.

But there was no comment from Mr. Shivakumar on any of these options, or whether he considered them acceptable.

Apart from meeting Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Kharge, the Karnataka Congress chief also had a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Surjewala, who then conveyed his demands to Mr. Kharge at a late meeting. "I am not making any comments. You people are making all the comments.... No decision, just a *pranam* (greeting)," the KPCC chief told presspersons as he was going to meet Mr Surjewala in the evening.

While Mr. Shivakumar held back-to-back meetings with senior leaders – in a sign that he was the one the high command was trying to placate – Mr. Siddaramaiah went back to his hotel after meeting Mr. Gandhi in the morning. He did not have any other meetings. A source close to the KPCC chief told *The Hindu* that Mr. Shivakumar wants "the Chief Minister's post or nothing at all". That is the scenario that the Congress's central leadership wants to avoid; it want both the rival leaders as part of the government in order to strengthen the party's prospects in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

While Mr. Shivakumar is credited with reviving the party and pulling in the influential Vokkaliga community, Mr. Siddaramaiah is crucial for the party's grip over AHINDAs, which is an acronym for the rainbow coalition of religious minorities, Other Backward Classes and Dalits.

SEBI gets time to probe Hindenburg charges

"The Minister, in his reply to Parliament on July 19, 2021, confirmed that SEBI is investigating companies with regard to SEBI regulations. It may be noted that the 'investigation' referred to is with regard to non-compliance with minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms and consequential violations. This investigation commenced in October 2020. It was this investigation which the Minister referred to in the Parliament. It is confirmed that the investigation referred to by the Minister had not commenced in 2016," Mr. Mehta submitted.

He said "one of the allegations in the Hindenburg report was related to the non-compliance of minimum price shareholding norms and violations". The SEBI was already investigating it.

The court said the updated status report of SEBI should cover issues "directly related" with the Hindenburg report. "One of the aspects which will have a bearing on what is disclosed in the Hindenburg report is the non-compliance with MPS norms," the Bench noted.

The Solicitor-General said the 2016 "investigation", brought up time and again, concerned an order of the SEBI regarding the issuance of Global Depository Receipts (GDR) by 51 Indian listed companies. "No listed entity of this company (Adani) was part of the 51 companies," he maintained. "You can't pick up something in 2016 and 2020 and connect it with the allegations from the Hindenburg report... The 2016 issue was totally different," he said.

Mr. Mehta said the petitioners could not use the court proceedings to go on a "roving enquiry".

The Bench observed that the ambit of the court proceedings was limited to the Hindenburg report. "The purpose of these proceedings is not for us or for a PIL petitioner to conduct a roving enquiry... On whatever is directly related to the Hindenburg report, the Solicitor-General said he is filing an affidavit... What is now related to the Hindenburg report is about compliance with MPS norms," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed Prashant Bhushan, appearing for one of the petitioners.

SC asks Manipur leaders to show restraint in statements

State said priority was to restore calm; court directed Manipur government to file a fresh status report; at one point, Bench wanted to stay the HC order to consider inclusion of Meiteis on ST list

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday urged constitutional authorities in Manipur to show "some restraint" and a "great sense of responsibility" after a students' federation alleged that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had made "provocative and targeted" statements.

"Please advise your constitutional authorities that statements should be made with a great sense of responsibility," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Manipur.

Nizam Pasha, advocate representing the Zomi Students' Federation in an interim application, referred to a recent judgment in which the court had asked "public functionaries and other persons of influence and celebrities" to be aware of the impact their public statements may have on people.

> Please advise your [Manipur] constitutional authorities that statements should be made with a great sense of responsibility
>
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice of India

Mr. Mehta agreed with the court, and said that the State's first priority was to "restore calm". However, he backed an apprehension voiced by senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, for the High Court Bar Association of Manipur, about illegal migrants entering the State from Myanmar through a "porous border". Mr. Mehta added, "This is a concern for the State also."

The Solicitor-General said that the situation in the State had "improved a lot". He said that the State was "peaceful and quiet".

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, representing the Manipur Tribal Forum Delhi, said that he was "surprised" by the statement. He noted that the status report submitted by the State did not have "a word about the killings that happened after the last hearing" in the Supreme Court on May 8.

"That is because our intentions are different. My intention is to restore calm and peace, and not to aggravate... Politics can wait," Mr. Mehta countered.

Mr. Mehta said that the State had successfully moved the High Court to defer by a year the implementation of its March 27 order. The High Court's single judge Bench had, on March 27, directed the State government to "consider the case of the petitioners for inclusion of the Meetei/Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe list, expeditiously, preferably within a period four weeks".

"We gave time for Justice Muralidharan to correct himself and he has not done so. Now we have to stay the March 27 order," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed initially.

However, Mr. Mehta said that staying the March 27 order at this point of time may affect the situation on the ground.

The State said that an appeal against the March 27 order was coming up for hearing in early June.

Refusing to be made into a "political forum", the court directed the Manipur government to file a fresh status report. "We do not want to get into areas of politics and policy. But as a constitutional court, we like to be periodically apprised of what is going on," the Bench said.

Manipur situation will normalise soon: Shah to delegation

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah told a group of civil society organisations from Mizoram that it was the Centre's duty to restore peace in Manipur and the situation would normalise in a few days, Lalhmachhuana, vice-president of Central Young Mizo Association, who led the delegation, told *The Hindu*.

More than 5,000 people from Manipur have taken refuge in Mizoram following the May 3 violence in the State that has claimed 73 lives so far. More than 35,000 people were displaced and over 700 properties, including religious places, were torched. Parts of Manipur are still under curfew and mobile Internet remains suspended.

The NGO Coordination Committee of Mizoram met Mr. Shah on Monday.

Mr. Lalhmachhuana said Mr. Shah listened to their grievances patiently. "The Home Minister did not speak much. He told us that it was the Government of India's duty to create a conducive atmosphere for restoring peace in Manipur. He said as a Home Minister, it was his duty too. He said things will be settled in a few days and the situation will normalise within no time," he said. The Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Zomi tribals in Manipur and Mizoram share ethnic ties.

The delegation apprised the Minister of a shortage of essential commodities, particularly in the hill districts, due to the curfew and other restrictions.

Ten Kuki MLAs from Manipur have demanded a separate administration, accusing the N. Biren Singh government of targeted attacks against the tribals. They said the divide between the Meitei community in the valley and the tribals in the hills had partitioned the State and they cannot live together.

Listen to our podcast | What is behind the Manipur violence? **bit.ly/podmanipur**

NHRC issues notice over exploitation of 13 girls in U.P. school

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Panel has asked for detailed report, including action taken against the perpetrators in case

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police, calling for a detailed report into an incident where 13 girl students were allegedly sexually exploited by a computer instructor at a government school in Shahjahanpur.

They have been asked to submit a detailed report, including action taken against the perpetrators, and the current status of the investigation, within six weeks.

"The commission would like to know the status of the compensation paid to the victims/ families so far and whether any counselling has been provided to the girl students who are reportedly scared and hesitant to attend the school, after the incident," the NHRC said.

The NHRC took *suo motu* cognisance of media reports which stated that a computer instructor molested the girls aged between 12 and 16. The matter came to light when the victims shared their ordeal with their parents.

The police arrested the teacher and the authorities suspended two more teachers who, despite being aware of the incident, did not take any action. The incident has reportedly shattered the confidence of the girls. The commission observed that the contents of the media reports, if true, amounted to violation of the human rights of the minor victims.

The commission also said that the State government should ensure proper guidelines are issued to all the schools under its jurisdiction, to avoid any delay or attempts to conceal facts in any untoward incident from the police, so that perpetrators are nabbed without delay.

Drive against drugs, forest encroachment not against any tribe: Manipur govt.

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The BJP-led Manipur government has claimed its eviction and anti-drug drives – two of the factors said to be behind the Kuki-Meitei clashes – are not targeted against any community.

Data released by K. Meghachandra Singh, Superintendent of Police of the Narcotics and Affairs of Border (NAB), on Tuesday said poppy plantations on a total of 15,496.8 acres were identified between the 2017-18 and 2022-23. During this period, 2,518 people were arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. Out of the total area under poppy cultivation, 13,121.8 acres was in areas dominated by the Kuki-Chin people, 2,340 acres in Naga-majority areas and 35 acres in areas inhabited by other communities, the data said.

Poppy plantations on a total of 18,664.5 acres and cannabis plantations on a total of 20 acres were destroyed from 2017 to March 2023. Out of the total people arrested from 2017 to April 2023 under the NDPS Act, 873 belonged to the Kuki-Chin communities, 1,083 were Muslims (mostly Meitei Pangals), and 381 were Meiteis.

Anti-drug activists and policemen destroy poppy plants on a mountain slope in Imphal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Data on forests

Another set of data said 291 encroachers were evicted from 20 reserve forests (RFs) and protected forests (PFs) across five districts – three of them in the non-tribal Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley – from January 1, 2017, to April 18, 2023. The data claimed Meitei people were uprooted from 16 of these RFs and PFs, Kabui Nagas from five, Kukis from four, Nepalese from three, Meitei Pangals from two and Chiru tribals from one.

"The Manipur government never targeted any particular community during eviction drives in protected areas conducted state-wide to preserve forests in view of the deteriorating climatic conditions," Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said. "The drive against drugs too has not been any community-specific," he added.

Harassment case: SC relief for Youth Cong. chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday protected Youth Congress president B.V. Srinivas in a case registered in Assam on a criminal complaint alleging sexual harassment.

A Bench ordered that in the event of arrest, Mr. Srinivas should be released on anticipatory bail on furnishing solvent sureties to the sum of ₹50,000.

The court directed Mr. Srinivas to appear before the probe officer on May 22. The court *prima facie* found that there was a delay of almost two months in lodging the FIR.

Appearing for Mr. Srinivas, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi submitted the complainant had actually complained of discrimination and there was not a whisper about sexual harassment in the six media interviews she gave prior to filing the complaint.

Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, for Assam, denied any political motive behind the First Information Report.

CBI searches multiple places in graft case related to Kiru hydro-electric power project

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The probe has been launched on charge that e-tendering norms were not followed in project

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday searched 12 locations in Delhi and Rajasthan in connection with a case alleging corruption in the award of ₹2,200 crore civil works related to the Kiru hydro-electric power project in Jammu and Kashmir.

"In Delhi, the premises of one Saunak Bali, three chartered accountants, Sanjay Narang, Virender Singh Rana and Kanwar Singh Rana, besides one Anita, were searched. At two places in Rajasthan, the premises searched were linked to Priyanka Chowdhary," an official said.

In July 2022, the agency had conducted searches in Delhi, Mumbai, Patna, Jammu and Srinagar, against the associates of the main accused persons, middlemen and others.

The premises of one chartered accountant, Rakesh Gupta, Rupen Patel of Patel Engineering Limited (Mumbai), and its three employees were also searched.

In the FIR registered on April 20 last year, among those named as accused are Navin Kumar Choudhary, an Indian Administrative Service official, as the then Chairman of Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Limited (CVPPPL); its then Managing Director M.S. Babu, Directors M.K. Mittal and Arun Kumar Mishra and Patel Engineering.

The probe has been launched on a reference from the J&K administration with respect to the charge that e-tendering guidelines were not followed despite the CVPPPL Board's decision, and the contract was awarded to Patel Engineering in 2019.

CBI arrests freelance scribe, ex-Navy officer on espionage charge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested freelance defence journalist Vivek Raghuvanshi and former Navy commander Ashish Pathak in an alleged espionage case.

The journalist has been accused of illegally collecting minute sensitive information on projects of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and their progress.

Sensitive details about the future procurement of the armed forces, the country's strategic preparedness, classified communications related to national security, and information about the strategic and diplomatic talks of India with its friendly countries were also accessed by the accused and shared with foreign intelligence agencies, according to the CBI.

During the searches at 15 locations in and around Delhi and Jaipur, the agency has seized 48 electronic devices, including laptops, tablets, mobile phones, hard disks and pen drive, belonging to Mr. Raghuvanshi and others associated with him.

The scrutiny of devices seized so far has revealed that the accused was gathering confidential information about India's defence procurement. The agency has alleged that Mr. Raghuvanshi received about ₹3 crore from foreign sources.

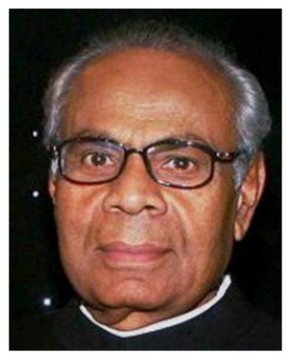
S.P. Hinduja, Chairman of the Hinduja Group, passes away at age of 87 in London

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Srichand Parmanand Hinduja (87), the eldest of the four Hinduja brothers and Chairman of Hinduja Group, died in London on Wednesday. He was unwell for some time.

The Hinduja family patriarch and his brothers, Gopichand and Prakash, were accused of receiving nearly SEK 81 million in illegal commissions to help Swedish gunmaker AB Bofors secure an Indian government contract.

"Gopichand, Prakash, Ashok and the whole Hinduja family with a heavy heart regret to announce the passing away of our family patriarch, and Chairman of Hinduja Group, Mr. S.P. Hinduja today," a family spokesperson said.



S.P. Hinduja

The Hinduja empire was started by Parmanand Deepchand Hinduja, who traded goods in the Sindh region of India (now Pakistan) before moving to Iran in 1919. In 1964, S.P. Hinduja distributed Raj Kapoor-starrer 'Sangam' through the Middle-East markets which helped him earn his first million dollars.

The ₹1,437 crore deal for the supply of 400 units of 155 mm Howitzer guns for the Army was entered into on March 24, 1986. Swedish Radio later claimed that the company had paid bribes to Indian politicians and defence personnel.

The CBI registered a case against Martin Arbdo, the then president of AB Bofors, alleged middleman Win Channda, and the Hinduja brothers. They were exonerated in 2005 due to a lack of evidence.

26/11 accused Rana can be extradited, says U.S. court

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

Imprisoned Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana, who is sought for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, can be extradited to India, a U.S. court in California has ruled.

Judge Jacqueline Chooljian of the U.S. District Court in Central District of Los Angeles, in an order dated May 16, said that based on the foregoing, the court concluded that 62-year-old Rana was extraditable for offences for which extradition has been requested and on which the U.S. is proceeding.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is investigating his role in the 26/11 attacks carried out by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in 2008.

He was arrested in the U.S. on an extradition request by India for his role in these attacks. The NIA has said that it was ready to initiate proceedings to bring him to India through diplomatic channels.

Regional parties must lead fight against BJP in their strongholds: SP

Akhilesh backs Mamata's stand; his statement signals a shift from his recent position against the Congress; he said the party's victory in Karnataka was the 'beginning of the end' of BJP

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav has backed the suggestion of West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee that regional parties lead the fight against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election wherever they had a strong presence.

"The party which is strong in a State should be kept in the forefront while contesting the election there," the SP said in a statement on Tuesday, without mentioning the Congress. Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) leader Nitish Kumar, Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao and leader of other parties also want that to happen, Mr. Yadav said.

> The party which is strong in a State should be kept in the forefront while contesting the election there
> **AKHILESH YADAV**
> Samajwadi Party president

'Cong. must sacrifice'

On Monday, the West Bengal Chief Minister said that the Congress and regional parties should be prepared to support each other in their strongholds, directly cautioning that the Congress must be prepared for some "sacrifice".

"Wherever the Congress is strong, in their respective 200 seats that we have calculated, let them fight, we will support them. But they have to support other political parties as well. If you want to achieve something good, then you have to sacrifice in certain areas," Ms. Banerjee said in Kolkata.

Change in tune

Mr. Yadav's statement signals a clear shift in his position of the past few months, when he had been targeting the Congress. "Both the BJP and the Congress are the same, and the SP is ruling out any tactical understanding or alliance with the grand old party," he said earlier, indicating that the SP planned to field a candidate for the Amethi seat, a Congress pocket borough represented till 2019 by the Gandhi family which the SP had left uncontested for three decades.

After the Karnataka Assembly election, Mr. Yadav seemed to change his tune, describing the Congress victory as "the beginning of the end" of the BJP, and congratulating the people for defeating the saffron party. "The mandate is of a new positive India against inflation, unemployment, corruption and animosity," he said.

On the draw

Ayodhya mosque project hangs in balance over lack of funds and other hurdles

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Members of the Indo-Islamic Culture Foundation (IICF) – the committee formed by the Sunni Central Waqf Board to manage the construction of the Ayodhya mosque – are planning to request the Uttar Pradesh government for full waiver of the development charges it has to submit to the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) to secure approval for the mosque's map.

The IICF has to reportedly submit approximately ₹10-12 crore as labour cess and development tax to secure final approval for the map, while the total funding the foundation has received for the mosque so far via crowd funding is around ₹50 lakh.

An official of the IICF told *The Hindu* that fund raising for the mosque has been stopped as continuous hurdles were being posed in the way of its construction.

Athar Husain Siddiqui, secretary, IICF, said that the committee was grateful to the State government, which has changed the land rules of the area in which the mosque is planned, easing the process for them.

"We were all set to apply for final approval of the map last month, but when we approached the ADA for it, we were told that we had to submit some money as development and labour cess. When we inquired, it turned out to be a sum in many crores. At present, we are not in a position to deposit it, so we have decided to request to the State government to waive off the development charges. A letter for this will be sent to the authorities by our president," Mr. Siddiqui added.

A senior ADA official confirmed to the *The Hindu*, "As soon as the IICF submits the map of the mosque for approval with the authority, our software would generate a form providing details of depositing development taxes (2-3% of the total cost of the project) and labour cess (1% of the project cost)."

According to the IIFC, the total cost of the three-phase mosque project is about ₹300 crore.

When contacted, ADA Secretary Satyendra Singh declined to comment on the matter. He said that the authority was ready to approve the map of the mosque within 24 hours if the IICF applied for it.

Mirwaiz killing case: 'accused should be brought to justice'

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee (AAC), headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, said on Wednesday that the culprits behind the assassination of the ex-Mirwaiz, Maulana Muhammad Farooq, on May 21, 1990, "should be brought to justice as soon as possible".

"Days ahead of the 33rd martyrdom anniversary of Shaheed-i-Millat and the Hawal massacre, the police have said that the accused have now been arrested in the ongoing investigation of more than three decades by the State authorities. If involved, they should be brought to justice. As the saying goes 'blood leaves its trail'," AAC general secretary Ghulam Nabi Zaki said.

The statement came a day after the J&K Police's special wing, State Investigation Agency (SIA), claimed to have arrested two militants, Javaid Bhat and Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, who were involved in the assassination.

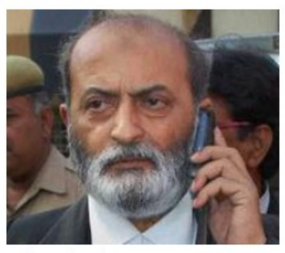
The police said Hizbul Mujahideen "commander" Abdullah Bangroo had hatched the conspiracy to kill the ex-Mirwaiz.

The AAC has described the killing as "a very painful and tragic part of our lives as well as in the history of Kashmir".

Zafaryab Jilani, the Babri Masjid advocate, no more

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

Zafaryab Jilani, the oft-heard Muslim voice in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, has fallen silent. Mr. Jilani breathed his last at 11.50 a.m. on Wednesday. He was 73.



Zafaryab Jilani

Mr. Jilani suffered a brain haemorrhage in May 2021. He was laid to rest in Lucknow. He rose to fame in the mid-1980s following the orders of the Faizabad district judge to open the lock of the Babri Masjid in 1986. Mr. Jilani responded to the challenge by forming the Babri Masjid Action Committee of which he was the convener.

Along with Imam Abdullah Bukhari, Sultan Salauddin Owaisi and Syed Shahabuddin, the committee raised the Muslim voice in the dispute which was to linger on till 2019 when the Supreme Court gave its verdict. "The observations were all in favour of the Muslim side though the verdict was different. Those observations came about due to Jilani's extensive research based on history and archaeology of the Babri Masjid site. He even spoke to historian Irfan Habib and many distinguished voices lent support to the Babri Masjid cause," recalled S.Q.R. Ilyas, who was associated with a negotiation team formed by the court under F.M.I. Kalifulla to find an amicable solution to the dispute.

A long-time secretary of the All India Muslim Personal Board, Mr. Jilani was blamed for the radicalisation of Muslim youth in the late 1980s when the mosque-temple contest was being waged in public arena.

Also read | Timeline of Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute
bit.ly/timelineth

तमिलनाडु केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय
(संसद द्वारा पारित अधिनियम 2009 के अंतर्गत स्थापित)
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU
(Established by an Act of Parliament, 2009)
नीलक्कुड़ी /Neelakudi
तिरुवारूर/Thiruvarur- 610 005
E mail: recruitment@cutn.ac.in

RECRUITMENT ON STATUTORY POST
Advertisement No : CUTN/NT/01/2023

Central University of Tamil Nadu invites applications for the post of Finance Officer (Direct/Deputation). For further details, interested candidates may visit **www.cutn.ac.in.**
Application link for Non – Teaching posts : **cutnnt.samarth.edu.in**
Place: Thiruvarur
Date : 18.05.2023
Sd/-
Registrar (i/c)

U.S., India, world want stability in Pakistan: envoy Garcetti

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti meets Shah Rukh Khan at the actor's residence in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

The United States, India and the world want stability in Pakistan, U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said on Wednesday amid the ongoing turmoil in the neighbouring country.

Emphasising the importance of stability, he highlighted engagement while respecting the Pakistanis' autonomy in determining their future.

"We hope that there will not be unrest in Pakistan and we stay engaged with Pakistan because of that. I think that serves both India and the United States and the world. And we hope and pray that the rule of law and peace will prevail over the border. But, that's up to the Pakistani people to decide," he said.

Mr. Garcetti said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting the U.S. this June to meet with President Joe Biden.

"This will be India's first official state visit to the United States in 14 years and just the third official state visit hosted by the Biden Administration. It's only the third time in 75 years that an Indian Prime Minister has visited. This year holds great promises for India and the U.S. in terms of what the two nations can do," he said.

Mr. Garcetti said that before coming to India, he spoke to President Biden about his vision for the U.S.-India partnership, and the President stressed just how pivotal the current moment is.

"It's pivotal for the whole planet, of course, but especially for our two countries, who have never worked closely together as we do today," he said.

The U.S. is now India's biggest trading partner, with $191 billion in bilateral trade last year and India now sends the most students of any country to the U.S., he said.

"But when I think about when I first came here, it was so different. Our relationship was a one-way flow. Our defence trade was zero. And we hardly had any international economic ties together. We are now the largest trading partner of India in the U.S.," Mr. Garcetti said.

He said both nations are now protecting an Indo-Pacific that is free and open, connected, prosperous, secure and resilient. "And our leading companies collaborate to solve global challenges in inclusive development and renewable energy. We are jointly addressing global health and development challenges, confronting climate change, and delivering next-generation critical and emerging technologies," the U.S. Ambassador said.

Digvijaya challenges Scindia for Guna face-off

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Jyotiradiya Scindia and Digvijaya Singh may face-off in Madhya Pradesh's Guna Lok Sabha constituency in 2024. Such a contest will have implications for the Gwalior-Chambal region in the crucial 2023 Assembly election prior to the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Speculation has been rife in the past few days with Mr. Singh, a former Chief Minister, upping the ante against Union Civil Aviation Minister Mr. Scindia of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Both are currently Rajya Sabha members and hail from the Gwalior-Chambal region.

Mr. Singh said that he was ready to contest against Mr. Scindia from Guna, where the latter has won four times before losing in 2019 to one-time protege-turned-opponent K.P. Yadav.

"I will do anything the party orders me to," Mr. Singh said. He went on to add that he was a Rajya Sabha member and at present, there was no need for him to contest the Lok Sabha election.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 27-28/2023-24/PHC/KNR, Jal Jeevan Mission - Kasaragod District-Bedadka Panchayath-Construction of Intake well cum pump house, Laying Pumping Main, Gravity Main, Ajanur Panchayath-Construction of 18 LL Capacity OHSR, Laying Distribution and providing FHTCs, **EMD :** Rs. 500000/Each, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518/Each, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 29-05-2023, 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 04972705902, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-297-2023-24 PH Circle, Kannur

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1.	CE / TP - I / Chennai	06, 07, 08, 09	4

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission/opening ,viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைத்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்" DIPR / 2596 / Tender / 2023

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
PHED JAIPUR REGION-II, Jaipur
Email:-aceregion2jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in Phone No:- 0141-2702700
Date:- 04.05.23
No:- ACE-II/Ar./2023-24/1359-373

Notice Inviting Bid 20/2023-24

Bids for "Operation and maintenance of RWSS Originating from Dudu Main Pump Houses Under Bisalpur-Dudu WATER Supply Project of 105 villages Dudu district Jaipur for 5 Years on Private contract basis under jurisdiction District Rural Division III Dudu, District Jaipur, Rajasthan" is invited from interested bidders upto 6:00 P.M. dated 29.05.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. The approximate value of the procurement in Rs. 892.94 Lac.
NIB: PHE2324AO725
UBN:- PHE2324WLOB01638
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/6769 PHED Jaipur Region-II, Jaipur

मुख्यमंत्री नि:शुल्क दवा योजना
RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur – 302005, India
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064 Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
CIN:U24232RJ2011SGC035067 E-mail : edprmsc@rajasthan.gov.in
Ref. No.: F.02(377)/RMSCL/ED (P) EMPANELMENT/DTL/NIB-09/2023/921 Dated :-11.05.2023

Notice Inviting E-Bids

E-bids are invited up to 6.00 PM of 30.05.2023 from approved Drugs Testing Laboratories situated in India for analysis of Drugs. (Ending on 30.06.2025) .
Details of NIB may be seen at the website of State Public procurement Portal http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in., http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in and may be downloaded from there.
UBN.No MSC2324SLRC00017
Raj.Samwad/C/23/2420 **Executive Director (Procurement)**

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur
RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/ EMD	Start of sale /Last date
1091/12.05.2023 RIS2324SLOB00019	RFP for OEM Technical Support, Subscription and Maintenance of Existing Micro Focus Load Runner for 3 years.	Rs. 04.00 Cr/ Rs. 08.00 Lacs	13.05.2023 25.05.2023

Details can be seen on the websites **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in**, & **http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Bids are to be submitted through **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.
Raj.Samwad/C/23/2448 **Joint Director**

RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT, JODHPUR
Notice Inviting Tender
No.HC/SK/Procurement/2023-24/02 Dated 06.05.2023

Bids for "Annual Rate Contract for Cleaning Work at Rajasthan High Court Premises, Advocate Chambers, Police Barrack and Watch Tower at New Building, High Court Guest House (C-30 C-42) and Bungalow No.C-4, at Jodhpur" are invited from interested bidders upto 29.05.2023. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state and https://hcraj.nic.in/hcraj/tender.php. [Estimated Cost Rs. 5,09,32,000/- (incl. all taxes)]
UBN No: RHC2324SLRC00001
By order
DIPR/C/6833 Registrar (Admn.)

E-mail:- sejjn.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD Circle Jhunjhunu
No. 199 Date: 2/5/23

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for 03 Nos. work of Road/Building work **(NIT 03/2023-24 dated 03.05.2023)** in Jhunjhunu Distt. are invited from interested bidders from dated 08.05.2023 to 29.05.2023 upto 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and pwd.rajasthan.gov.in department website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1547.43 lacs.

UBN- PWD2324WSOB01642
PWD2324WLOB01643
PWD2324WSOB01644
Superintending Engineer
DIPR/C/6652 PWD Circle Jhunjhunu

INBRIEF

L. Murugan inaugurates India pavilion at Cannes

Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan inaugurated the India pavilion at the Marché du Film (film market) at Cannes on Wednesday. Addressing a gathering, Mr. Murugan said India was the world's largest producer of films with over 3,000 films in more than 50 languages. "These films carry a message of India's strength in storytelling across the world," he said. Citing the example of the Oscar-winning *The Elephant Whisperers*, the Minister said: "We are witnessing an era where Indian content is going local to global." He added that the Indian media and entertainment sector was poised to grow at 11.4% in 2023, propelling its revenue to a staggering ₹2.36 trillion. "This remarkable surge is a testament to the robustness of India's M&E industry," he said.

Seven hurt as Delhi-Sydney AI flight faces severe turbulence

Seven passengers on board the Delhi-Sydney Air India flight were injured after the flight encountered severe turbulence mid-air on Tuesday. The injured passengers received medical assistance on arrival at the Sydney airport. No passenger was hospitalised. According to a senior official of the Directorate of Civil Aviation, the passengers suffered a "minor sprain". "Cabin crew provided first aid with the assistance of a doctor and a nurse travelling as passengers, using an onboard first aid kit," the official said. Air India's airport manager in Sydney arranged assistance on arrival. PTI

Go First extends flight cancellations to May 26

For the sixth time in a fortnight, Go First extended flight cancellations and announced that operations until May 26 were being suspended. "We regret to inform that due to operational reasons, Go First flights scheduled till May 26, 2023 have been cancelled. A full refund will be issued to the original mode of payment shortly," the airline said in a social media post. Flights have been suspended since May 3. The DGCA had earlier ordered the airline to stop selling air tickets, and has given it time until May 22 on the basis of which it will decide whether to cancel its permit to provide commercial flight services.

Privilege notice against Raut for *chor mandal* remark

A breach of privilege notice against Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut was referred to the Committee of Privileges for investigation by Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar for his alleged remarks calling the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly a "house of thieves". According to a Rajya Sabha bulletin published on Wednesday, the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat, on April 6, sent a communication to the Upper House urging that a privilege notice be considered against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Mr. Raut for his comments, "This is not 'Vidhan Mandal' but 'Chor Mandal' [House of Thieves]".

Take steps to reduce unnecessary hysterectomies, Centre tells States

Missive from the Health Ministry comes after Supreme Court judgment flagged the violation of women's right to health; order was based on a petition that said some hospitals were carrying out the procedure to claim fees via insurance

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Worried that poor, less-educated women, particularly in rural areas, continue to be at higher risk of undergoing unnecessary and often unjustified hysterectomies, the Health Ministry has written to all stakeholders to work towards plugging "such hysterectomies performed by certain medical institutions".

The action comes following the Supreme Court's direction last month, where the States and Union Territories were instructed to implement health guidelines formulated by the Centre to monitor "unnecessary" hysterectomies within three months. Hysterectomy is a surgical procedure to remove the uterus.

A public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed before the Supreme Court had said that in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan, "unnecessary hysterectomies" were carried out under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana as well as other government schemes related to healthcare.

In 2022, the Health Ministry had issued guidelines to prevent unnecessary hysterectomies. FILE PHOTO

The petition was filed in 2013 by Narendra Gupta, a doctor and public health expert, who based the petition on his fieldwork.

It also highlighted the involvement of private hospitals in performing such hysterectomies.

Dr. Gupta said that women who should not have been subjected to hysterectomies but should have been provided alternative treatment, were told to undergo the procedure, seriously endangering their health in the process.

The petitioner also submitted that most women who were subjected to hysterectomies of this kind belonged to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, or Other Backward Communities. It was also noted with concern that several healthcare institutions were found to be misusing the procedure only to claim expenses under various health insurance schemes offered by the government.

Audit plan

The recent letter from Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, "States are requested to share the hysterectomy status and data before and after the implementation of these guidelines."

"They are also advised to undertake compulsory audits for all hysterectomies, as is already being done for maternal mortality in all healthcare institutions – both public and private," it added.

In 2022, the Health Ministry had issued 'Guidelines to prevent unnecessary hysterectomies', and asked States to comply with them.

The recent judgment also noted that the guidelines indicate that while in developed countries hysterectomies are typically conducted among premenopausal women above the age of 45, in India, community-based studies have consistently found rising hysterectomy rates among young women, ranging from 28 to 36 years of age.

"The right to health is an intrinsic element of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Life, to be enjoyed in all its diverse elements, must be based on robust conditions of health. There has been a serious violation of the fundamental rights of the women who underwent unnecessary hysterectomies," said the judgment.

Hypertension to be tackled at primary health centres

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has launched an initiative here on Wednesday, World Hypertension Day, to screen and place 75 million people with hypertension and diabetes under standard care by 2025.

The announcement was made by V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, at a G-20 co-branded event, "Accelerating the Prevention and Management of Hypertension and Diabetes", organised by the Health Ministry and the World Health Organization.

Dr. Paul said that the battle against non-communicable diseases must be fought at the primary healthcare level.

He pointed out that India had developed a platform to fight the menace through the creation of more than 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres and operationalisation of telemedicine and digital health services.

Jaipur serial blasts case: SC declines to stay HC order

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to stay a Rajasthan High Court decision to acquit four men sentenced to death in the 2008 Jaipur serial blasts case.

A Bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Rajesh Bindal, however, stayed a direction passed in the March 29 judgment of the Rajasthan High Court asking the State's Director General of Police to order an inquiry against the investigating officers.

The Bench said it was not going to "mechanically stay" the High Court's order and needed to hear those acquitted first. It directed the four men to surrender their passports and mark their presence before the Anti-Terror Squad police station in Jaipur.

The top court was hearing appeals filed by the State government and family members of the blast victims.

A trial court had awarded the death sentence in December 2019.

Cabinet gives approval for fertilizer subsidy of ₹1.08 lakh crore for kharif

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With fertilizer prices continuing to remain high due to global factors – such as a fall in production and hiked logistics costs, especially due to the Ukraine situation – the Centre expects this year's fertilizer subsidy to cross ₹2.25 lakh crore. Accordingly, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹1.08 lakh crore subsidy for the ongoing kharif or monsoon season, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya said.

Out of this, ₹38,000 crore will subsidise phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers, while ₹70,000 crore will go toward the urea subsidy.

Last year, the total fertilizer subsidy was about ₹2.56 lakh crore.

Mr. Mandaviya told journalists that the Centre would ensure that the prices of urea and diammonium phosphate (DAP) would remain unchanged during the season. At present, the subsidised rate of urea is ₹276 per bag and the price of DAP is ₹1,350 per bag. The decision will benefit about 12 crore farmers, the Minister added.

Farm incentives: The fertilizer subsidy for one hectare is about ₹8,900, the government has said. FILE PHOTO

The total consumption of urea in the country is about 325 to 350 lakh tonnes (lt). Apart from this, 100 to 125 lt of DAP; 100 to 125 lt of NPK; and 50 to 60 lt of muriate of potash (MoP) are also sold in the country. "Farmers should get fertilizers on time. They should not be burdened at a time international prices are high," he said.

The Minister said that the fertilizer subsidy usually ranged between ₹1 lakh crore and ₹1.25 lakh crore. "Last year, it was ₹2.56 lakh crore," he said, adding that as cultivation takes place on 1,400 lakh hectares of land across the country, the fertilizer subsidy for one hectare is ₹8,909. "We have 12 crore farmers and one farmer gets ₹21,223 subsidy," he said.

The actual price of a bag of DAP was ₹4,000, Mr. Mandaviya said. "But for farmers, the rate is ₹1,350 per bag. ₹2,461 per bag is the subsidy," he explained.

Sameer Wankhede gets protection from arrest for five days

Asian News International
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted protection from arrest (no coercive action) till May 22 to former Narcotics Control Bureau officer Sameer Wankhede with liberty to approach the Bombay High Court for further relief.

Mr. Wankhede had moved the Delhi High Court and stated that the allegations by the NCB against him were "false and misleading". His plea sought a cross-FIR against Deputy Director-General, NCB, Gyaneshwar Singh.

Counsel for the Delhi government argued that the plea should be raised before the Bombay High Court. The Bench of Justice Vikas Mahajan granted protection from arrest for five days and granted liberty to move the Bombay HC for relief.

Meanwhile, Mr. Wankhede has been summoned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday. He is likely to appear before the CBI team in Mumbai.

Sameer Wankhede

The CBI has booked Mr. Wankhede for allegedly demanding ₹25 crore as a bribe for not implicating actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan in a drugs case.

According to the CBI, an NCB team headed by Mr. Wankhede allowed people who were in possession of drugs on a cruise and the supplier to escape.

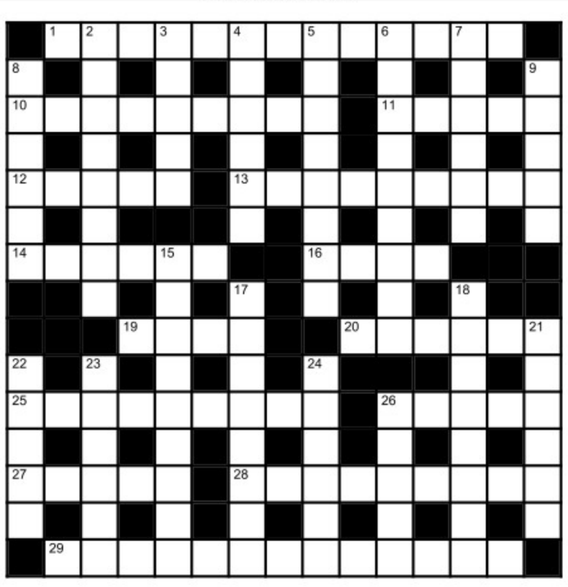
For a backgrounder on the case as the events unfolded in October 2021, go to **bit.ly/drugscase**

TH CROSSWORD + 13868

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Having second thoughts on earth (6,2,5)
10 Constant chaos, it is stewed by a nut (9)
11 Vicious canine at Trombay outskirts (5)
12 War enacted in part of stadium (5)
13 Criminal! Rice wasted by company caretaker (9)
14 Convicted man gets lit, in a frenzy (6)
16 Animation through electronic network (4)
19 Concealed by nawab, lying resourcefully... (4)
20 ...common people tease and tail (6)
25 Infrastructure for two wheelers constructed cheaply around junction behind college (5,4)
26 Crazy woman's messy losing head (5)
27 Mantra, for example seen in article's end (5)
28 Choke America to retreat, back away having Cuba worried (9)
29 Say, Charles agreed earlier to work with Malta, a country in Europe (6,7)

Down

2 Heard that man's irate, can be madness (8)
3 Article in two cities on an antelope (5)
4 Principles of heartless chemist outlandish (6)
5 Say, Mark Zuckerberg takes some lithium for struggle (8)
6 Nurse feeding some apple to toddler by afternoon as food (9)
7 Reply from holiday centre cancelling Sabbath for tea as discussed (6)
8 Issued without issue and called (6)
9 Axes half of leaf to primarily mend plant tissue (5)
15 Chart with sailor mentions a chemical by common name (5,4)
17 Evaded Bombay outskirts and turned (8)
18 Small animals back to back taking an egg making short abrupt sounds (8)
21 Eyes rolled on entering Gorakhpur borders for a hot spring (6)
22 Say, Amitabh Bachchan's agent dismissed female (5)
23 Check guard (6)
24 Fathom lock up is outside. One should have a quick look around (6)
26 Grown mistakenly? Not right (5)

SUDOKU

4		5						
	9		8		4	2	5	
	3							
7			4				3	
	5	3				6	8	
	8				9			1
							2	
	6	8	3		7		4	
						8		5

No.SS5802 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

R	O	U	N	D		L	O	V	E	B	O	M	B	
E		P		I		A		H		L		A		D
C	U	S	T	A	R	D		F	I	A	N	C	E	E
O				N		I				C		H		N
N	E	C	K	A	N	D	N	E	C	K		U	F	O
C		A				A		D		M		P		M
I	M	M	U	R	E		H	A	R	A	K	I	R	I
L		A		E		S		M		I		C		N
I	R	R	I	G	A	T	E		A	L	I	C	I	A
A		A		U		E		A				H		T
T	A	D		L	A	P	I	S	L	A	Z	U	L	I
I		E		A				T		N				O
O	E	R	S	T	E	D		H	A	N	U	M	A	N
N		I		E		O		M		O		A		A
	V	E	N	D	E	T	T	A		Y	O	D	E	L

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	8	5	2	6	4	1	9
6	2	4	7	1	9	8	3	5
1	5	9	8	3	4	7	6	2
5	3	1	9	4	2	6	8	7
4	8	2	6	5	7	3	9	1
9	6	7	3	8	1	5	2	4
8	9	5	2	7	3	1	4	6
2	1	3	4	6	5	9	7	8
7	4	6	1	9	8	2	5	3

FAITH

Upadesa Panchakam

It is widely believed that Lord Parameshwara transcended down in the manifestation of Sri Adi Sankara. The great acharya composed Upadesa Panchakam containing five verses that point out the ways and means of the great path to truth. Upadesa Panchakam or Saadhana Panchakam, stops us from wandering into the labyrinth of futile, negative arguments.

The first verse speaks of the daily study of the Vedas ('Vedho nithyamadheeyatham'). We shouldn't ask what's the benefit of reciting the Vedas. We have to perform duties as ordained in the Vedas. Hearing Vedic sound and inhaling the smoke of homa will cleanse our sins. We have to try to develop knowledge of the soul.

The second verse concerns "sathsangam" – the benefit of being in the company of good people. Sage Narada says in the Bhakti Sutram that only the company of pious people will help develop bhakti and help us cross the sea of samsara. It is said that we should never be perfidious to the pious.

The third verse speaks of renouncing pride and giving up delusory misconceptions (vaakyarthascha vicharyatham). Let us try to think "I am Brahmam" and forsake the belief that "I am the body".

The fourth verse says to live in contentment, not beg for delicious food, and swallow daily the medicine that's in the form of alms (kshudh vyadischa).

The last verse points to quietening one's mind in the Supreme Lord (ekanthe sukham aasyathem). Let us fix our mind in the ultimate truth of the soul, Brahmashree Sundarkumar said in a discourse.

ROME

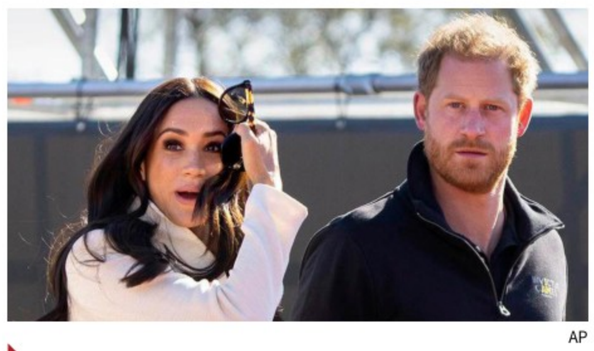
8 killed as heavy rain causes havoc in drought-struck northern Italy

AP

Exceptional rain on Wednesday in a drought-struck region of northern Italy swelled rivers over their banks, killing at least eight people and forcing the evacuation of thousands. A Minister said an average of 200 mm of rain had fallen in 36 hours in Emilia-Romagna region, with some areas registering 500 mm in that period. AP

NEW YORK

Prince Harry, Meghan in 'near catastrophic' paparazzi car chase



AP

Prince Harry and his wife Meghan were involved in a car chase while being followed by photographers following a charity event in New York, the couple's office said on Wednesday. The pair was followed for more than two hours by a half-dozen vehicles with blacked-out windows, which "resulted in multiple near collisions", it said. AP

LAHORE

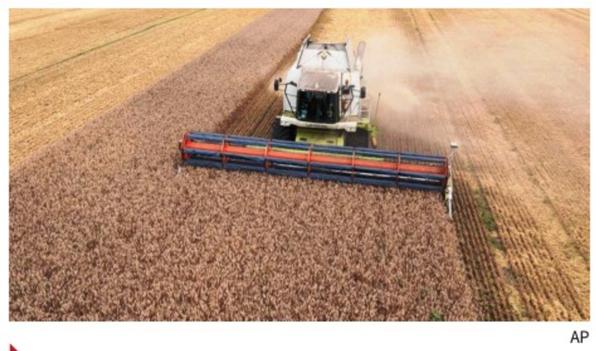
Imran seeks independent inquiry into violence on military bases

AP

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday demanded an independent inquiry into the violence following his arrest as he distanced himself and his party from attacks on state and military installations. He made the demand in an address to the PTI workers from his Zaman Park residence here via video link. PTI

UNITED NATIONS

UN welcomes new deal to export Ukraine grain, says Guterres



AP

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres welcomed the Turkish-brokered agreement on Wednesday to extend a pact to allow shipments of grain from Ukraine to the global market for another two months. "These matter for global food security; Ukrainian, Russian products feed the world," Mr. Guterres said. AFP

Key climate threshold likely to be breached in 5 years: UN

There is two-thirds chance of global temperatures exceeding the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming limit, warns World Meteorological Organization; 2023-2027 set to be hottest five-year period ever

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

It is near-certain that 2023-2027 will be the warmest five-year period ever recorded, the United Nations warned on Wednesday as greenhouse gases and El Nino combine to send temperatures soaring.

There is a two-thirds chance that at least one of the next five years will see global temperatures exceed the more ambitious target set out in the Paris accords on limiting climate change, the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said.

The hottest eight years ever recorded were all between 2015 and 2022, with 2016 the warmest – but temperatures are forecast to increase further as climate change accelerates.

"There is a 98% likelihood that at least one of the next five years, and the five-year period as a whole, will be the warmest on record," the WMO said.

The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 – and 1.5 degrees Celsius if possible.

Parched living: Women carrying jerrycans of water towards a makeshift camp on the outskirts of Baidoa in Somalia. AFP

The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 average.

The WMO said there was a 66% chance that annual global surface temperatures will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels for at least one of the years 2023-2027, with a range of 1.1 degrees Celsius to 1.8 degrees Celsius forecasted for each of those five years.

"WMO is sounding the alarm that we will breach the 1.5C level on a temporary basis with increasing frequency," said the agency's chief Petteri Taalas.

"A warming El Nino is expected to develop in the coming months and this will combine with human-induced climate change to push global temperatures into uncharted territory.

"This will have far-reaching repercussions for health, food security, water management and the environment. We need to be prepared."

El Nino is the large-scale warming of surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. The weather phenomenon normally occurs every two to seven years.

Typically, El Nino increases global temperatures in the year after it develops – which in this cycle would be 2024.

Heat gets trapped in the atmosphere by so-called greenhouse gases, which are at a record high.

The major greenhouses gases are carbon dioxide, plus methane and nitrous oxide.

"The return to normal level might take even thousands of years because we already have such a high concentration of carbon dioxide, and we have lost the melting of glaciers and sea level game," said Mr. Taalas.

"There's no return to the climate which persisted during the last century."

Read our explainer: Is climate change affecting global health? **bit.ly/climatechangehel**

Beijing asks embassies to remove political signs

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Authorities in China's capital asked several Western embassies this week to remove political signs from their outer walls, diplomatic sources in Beijing said.

Several Western embassies across Beijing display Ukrainian flags in solidarity with the country's fight against Russia's invasion, some accompanied by messages of support in English and Chinese.

However, sources in several European missions said that they had received a notice from Chinese authorities this week asking them to take down such political signage.

All said they would refuse the request and that they would not change their policies.

However, an official from another European embassy said it was unclear whether the request was linked to Ukraine or the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

The official said they "strictly adhere to the Vienna conventions. There is therefore no reason for us to react to this note".

Australia cancels Quad meeting in Sydney after U.S. President pulls out

Associated Press
CANBERRA

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has ruled out a Quad summit taking place in Sydney without President Joe Biden, saying the four leaders will talk at the Group of Seven meeting this weekend in Japan.

Mr. Albanese said on Wednesday he understands why Mr. Biden pulled out of the summit to focus on debt limit talks in Washington since they are crucial to the economy.

The summit including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida had been scheduled for May 24.

"The blocking and the disruption that's occurring in domestic politics in the United States, with the debt ceiling issue, means that, because that has to be solved prior to June 1 – otherwise there are quite drastic consequences for the U.S. economy, which will flow on to the global economy – he understandably has had to make that decision," Mr. Albanese said.

Four pillars: From left, Anthony Albanese, Joe Biden, Narendra Modi and Fumio Kishida at a summit in Tokyo in 2022. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Biden "expressed very much his disappointment" at being unable to come to the Sydney summit and to the national capital Canberra a day earlier to address Parliament, Mr. Albanese said.

The four leaders will soon be together in Hiroshima, Japan, for the Group of Seven summit and are planning to meet there, he said.

Modi to visit

He said Mr. Modi will visit Sydney next week, noting the Indian leader was scheduled to give an address to the Indian diaspora at a sold-out 20,000-seat stadium on Tuesday. But Mr. Kishida will not visit.

"Prime Minister Modi will be here next week for a bilateral meeting with myself. He will also have business meetings, he'll hold a very public event ... in Sydney," Mr. Albanese told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Mr. Albanese said it was "disappointing" that Mr. Biden decided he could not come.

"The decision of President Biden meant that you can't have a Quad leaders' meeting when there are only three out of the four there," Mr. Albanese told the reporters.

Search on as Chinese ship capsizes in Indian Ocean with 39 on board

Ananth Krishnan
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Search and rescue vessels were in a race against time on Wednesday to locate a Chinese fishing vessel, which had capsized in the waters of the Indian Ocean south of Sri Lanka on Tuesday, with 39 people on board.

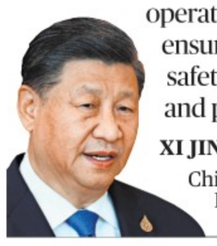
The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) was coordinating the rescue effort in waters located around 5,000 km from Australia and 1,300 km south of Sri Lanka.

Chinese state media reported the AMSA had received a distress beacon signal early on Tuesday from the Chinese vessel Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028, which had on board 17 Chinese, 17 Indonesians and five mariners from the Philippines. The AMSA has requested the Australian Defence Force to provide assets for the search, and a P-8A Poseidon aircraft had already been deployed on Tuesday night.

No survivors found yet

Two Chinese vessels in the area had also been involved in rescue efforts while Chinese embassies and consulates in "Australia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia, the Philippines and other countries" had been engaged to coordinate the efforts, Chinese state media reported. No survivors have been found so far, and extreme weather in the area on Tuesday complicated search efforts.

> All-out efforts in the rescue of the missing people are needed... Efforts should be strengthened for the investigation and early warning of potential safety risks in deep-sea operations to ensure the safety of life and property
>
> **XI JINPING**
> Chinese President



A senior official of the Sri Lankan Navy said that Sri Lanka was yet to take a decision on sending a vessel, as it did not have vessels in the area and its ships would take a couple of days to reach the capsized ship.

Diplomatic sources said that the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) was sharing information on the incident with affiliated partners and agencies.

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday "demanded all-out efforts in the rescue of the missing people," State media reported. He also called for "efforts to further strengthen the investigation and early warning of potential safety risks in deep-sea operations to ensure the safety of life and property."

(With inputs from Meera Srinivasan in Colombo)

Iran, Russia ink deal to complete major transport network

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran and Russia agreed on Wednesday to collaborate on the construction of the final part of a commercial transport network linking to the Gulf and India while avoiding Western sea lanes.

Iranian Transport Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, who signed the agreement with his Russian counterpart in Tehran, said the 164-kilometre railway in Iran's north would be completed within three years.

It is the only missing link in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) from northeast Russia via Azerbaijan to Iran's southern coastline and on to India by sea.

Russia and Iran are both under international sanctions that restrict trade.

The freight network of ship, rail and road routes, which covers some 7,200 kilometres, avoids the Suez Canal between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea which would otherwise transport some Russian seaborne cargo.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who attended the signing ceremony, and Russia's Vladimir Putin, who spoke there via videoconference, both hailed the economic opportunities the agreement presents.

The planned railroad would connect Rasht, a city in northern Iran, and the Astara crossing on the border with Azerbaijan.

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Empowering Odisha

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CIN : U40109OR1995SGC003960

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR AND QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

(₹ in Crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated	
		Quarter ended			Year ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.12.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
		Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1.	Total income from Operations	2,949.77	2,362.72	3,046.04	11,923.13	10,161.58	11,923.13	10,161.58
2.	Net profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items#)	(448.63)	(311.69)	(97.90)	(793.21)	(496.39)	(427.68)	(35.55)
3.	Net profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items#)	(433.60)	(311.69)	(97.90)	(778.18)	(440.18)	(412.66)	20.66
4.	Net profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items#)	(433.60)	(311.69)	(97.90)	(778.18)	(440.18)	(412.66)	20.66
5.	Total comprehensive income for the period [comprising profit / (loss) for the period (after Tax) and other comprehensive income (after Tax)]	(433.60)	(311.69)	(97.90)	(778.18)	(440.18)	(440.16)	(109.32)
6.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Fully paid Equity Shares of Rs.1,000/- each issued at Par)	3,002.04	2,791.22	2,791.22	3,002.04	2,791.22	3,002.04	2,791.22
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(8,664.36)	(7,886.18)	(8,230.76)	(8,664.36)	(7,886.18)	(8,000.41)	(7,560.25)
8.	Securities Premium Account	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
9.	Net Worth	(5,662.32)	(5,094.96)	(5,439.54)	(5,662.32)	(5,094.96)	(4,998.37)	(4,769.03)
10.	Paid-up Debt Capital / Outstanding debt	6,293.00	6,670.59	6,692.74	6,293.00	6,670.59	6,293.00	6,670.59
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference share	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
12.	Debt-Equity Ratio	2.10	2.39	2.40	2.10	2.39	2.10	2.39
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.1,000/- each) (for continuing and discontinued Operations) -							
	1. Basic :	(155.28)	(529.75)	(35.07)	(278.68)	(748.14)	(147.78)	35.11
	2. Diluted :	(155.28)	(529.75)	(35.07)	(278.68)	(748.14)	(147.78)	35.11
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.14)	(0.01)	0.01	(0.11)	0.11	0.03	0.32
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	(2.43)	(0.09)	0.21	(0.58)	0.33	0.15	0.95

- Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules.

Notes :

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the LODR Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website: https://www.bseindia.com and on the company website : https://www.gridco.co.in/.

b) For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(BSE) and can be accessed on the company website : https://www.gridco.co.in/.

c) There is no change in accounting policies and accordingly there is no impact on net profit/loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s).

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date : 17.05.2023

By order of GRIDCO Board
For GRIDCO Ltd.
Sd/-
Managing Director

CAD-622:
OIPR-04056/11/0005/2324

INBRIEF

Suzlon Group bags order for 99-MW wind energy project

Suzlon Group announced it had received an order from Vibrant Energy for 33 wind turbine generators (WTGs) featuring its new 3 MW series with a Hybrid Lattice Tubular (HLT) tower for a 99-MW wind power project which is expected to be commissioned by FY25. Suzlon Energy will supply the wind turbines, provide erection and commissioning services as well as comprehensive operations and maintenance services post-commissioning, the company said.

LIC Housing Finance Q4 net rises 6% to ₹1,180 crore

LIC Housing Finance Ltd. (LIC HFL) reported standalone net profit for the quarter ended March rose 6% year-on-year to ₹1,180 crore. Revenue from operations grew 21% to ₹6,415 crore. Net interest income rose 22% to ₹1,990 crore and net interest margin stood at 2.93% against 2.64%, the lender said in a statement. Total disbursements declined to ₹16,027 crore from ₹19,315 crore. The board recommended a dividend of ₹8.50 per share.

Pricol files objection with CCI against Minda bid to up stake

Auto parts maker Pricol has filed a preliminary objection to Minda Corporation's application to the Competition Commission of India to increase its stake in Pricol up to 24.5%. In a filing, Pricol said it also reserved the "right to challenge in detail on merits at the appropriate stage." Minda had approached CCI to increase its stake in Pricol after acquisition of a 15.7% stake by purchasing more than 1.91 crore shares of the latter from the open market in February, PTI reported.

Centre more than doubles outlay on PLI for IT hardware to ₹17,000 crore

Announcement comes on the back of 17% CAGR in electronics manufacturing, says government; improvements to scheme based on feedback from industry on the earlier version, says Minister for Communications, Electronics and IT Vaishnaw

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an updated Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware manufacturing, with the total budgetary outlay more than doubled to ₹17,000 crore, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw announced.

"Electronics manufacturing in India has witnessed consistent growth with 17% CAGR in [the] last 8 years," the government said in a statement. "This year it crossed a major benchmark in production - $105 billion." India crossed $11 billion in mobile phone exports, and was now the second-largest mobile handset maker behind China, the government said.

The PLI scheme for IT hardware, first notified in March 2021, provides upwards of 4% in incentives for incremental investment in domestic manufacturing for eligible firms, which include companies like Dell and Flextronics.

"Based on industry feedback on improving... the scheme, the Cabinet has approved the changes," Mr. Vaishnaw said. For instance, he said, the incentive had been increased to 5%. An "additional optional incentive" has also been introduced for using domestically produced components. While Mr. Vaishnaw did not specify the rates of these optional incentives, he said that if they were availed as "envisioned," the total incentive would amount to 8-9%.

Telecom hardware manufacturing had exceeded the projected ₹900 crore and reached ₹1,600 crore. "Two of those companies have become very important exporters in the world for complex radio equipment," the Minister added.

Bulking up

Union Cabinet approves updated Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware based on feedback from firms

- The scheme provides upwards of 4% in incentives for incremental investment in domestic manufacturing for eligible firms like Dell, Flextronics
- The incentive has been raised to 5%, with an 'optional incentive' added for using domestically produced components
- Including the optional incentive, total incentive may amount to 8-9%

'SpiceJet's offer to settle unpaid dues not good enough'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Aircastle, a lessor to Indian budget airline SpiceJet Ltd., told a tribunal that settlement talks with the company over unpaid dues were inconclusive.

The Ireland-based lessor earlier this month sought to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against SpiceJet over non payment of lease rentals and other dues. The airline owes Aircastle about ₹500 million ($6 million), a lawyer present during the NCLT hearing told Reuters.

The NCLT will next hear the case on May 25. SpiceJet did not immediately reply to a request for comment. The Indian carrier has been scrambling to raise funds amid a string of quarterly losses and as local competition heats up.

BPCL unveils ₹49,000 crore capex for Bina Refinery

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has announced an expansion plan worth ₹49,000 crore at Bina Refinery to further increase its presence in the petrochemical segment.

The project encompasses the establishment of an Ethylene Cracker (EC) Complex, downstream petrochemical plants, as well as the expansion of the existing refinery capacity from 7.8 MMTPA to 11 MMTPA and associated facilities.

IRDAI tweaks surety insurance norms to expand market

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has introduced changes to surety insurance guidelines on solvency margin and exposure limit to expand the market and encourage more insurers to foray into the segment.

"Solvency requirement applicable for such products has been reduced to control level of 1.5 times from 1.875 previously prescribed. The existing 30% exposure limit applicable on each contract underwritten by an insurer has been removed," the regulator said in a circular.

More insurers

Welcoming the change to the solvency requirement, a senior-level executive in a private general insurer said the relaxation was likely to make more insurance companies qualify to underwrite the policies. The market potential is big and with more awareness, this is bound to benefit contractors, particularly those leveraged. Opting for the insurance cover will free up funds for such contractors.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,561	-0.60
US Dollar	82.37	-0.14
Gold	60,580	-0.88
Brent oil	76.38	1.89

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1899.50	10.35
Adani Ports	684.60	-2.40
Apollo Hosp	4482.15	-72.95
Asian Paints	3092.45	-45.65
Axis Bank	914.80	-3.00
Bajaj Auto	4529.35	-9.00
Bajaj Finserv	1415.40	-12.95
Bajaj Finance	6705.05	-79.55
Bharti Airtel	792.25	4.90
BPCL	364.75	2.45
Britannia Ind	4631.90	25.00
Cipla	923.95	1.85
Coal India	241.60	0.65
Divis Lab	3268.00	-11.45
Dr Reddys Lab	4481.50	-33.55
Eicher Motors	3628.75	-4.45
Grasim Ind	1724.85	-2.30
HCL Tech	1074.55	-16.15
HDFC	2706.15	-16.50
HDFC Bank	1638.45	-8.85
HDFC Life	560.10	0.60
Hero MotoCorp	2722.95	36.95
Hindalco	407.70	-4.75
Hind Unilever	2661.75	-14.15
ICICI Bank	939.35	-7.00
IndusInd Bank	1236.15	15.85
Infosys	1246.90	-17.40
ITC	427.60	3.65
JSW Steel	695.10	-7.65
Kotak Bank	1909.15	-37.90
L&T	2219.60	-7.60
M&M	1263.10	0.65
Maruti Suzuki	9119.40	48.05
NestleIndia	21732.50	-47.90
NTPC	176.00	-1.45
ONGC	167.25	-0.75
PowerGrid Corp	238.80	-1.80
Reliance Ind	2439.30	-14.50
SBI Life	1162.60	-18.15
State Bank	586.30	0.00
Sun Pharma	935.95	-5.00
TataConsumerProduct	778.25	-8.00
Tata Motors	515.50	-5.65
Tata Steel	106.00	-1.40
TCS	3208.70	-49.45
Tech Mahindra	1054.15	-3.05
Titan	2762.40	-27.85
UltraTech Cement	7700.45	1.75
UPL	677.80	4.95
Wipro	382.30	-4.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.18	82.50
Euro	89.00	89.35
British Pound	102.29	102.69
Japanese Yen (100)	60.01	60.25
Chinese Yuan	11.75	11.80
Swiss Franc	91.40	91.76
Singapore Dollar	61.20	61.44
Canadian Dollar	60.92	61.16
Malaysian Ringitt	18.15	18.23
Australian Dollar	54.67	54.90

Source:Indian Bank

India, EU explore ways to resolve 'carbon border tax'

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

India and the EU are working to resolve a looming hurdle in their trade relationship, the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), with the two sides discussing it during a Minister-level meeting in Brussels this week. The EU is India's second-largest trading partner as well as its second-largest export market.

The EU describes the CBAM as a 'landmark tool' that places a "fair price" on carbon emitted during the production of goods that are entering the EU and a mechanism to "encourage cleaner industrial production" outside the EU.

The CBAM regulations came into effect on May 16 and will begin their transitional phase of implementation on October 1.

An Indian delegation led by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed the tax during a visit to Brussels for bilateral meetings and the first edition of the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC).

The TTC said in a statement that the two parties would "intensify their engagement to address the issues that emerge in implementation" of the CBAM.

The two sides "remain engaged" and are discussing the issue, Mr. Goyal said following the meeting on Tuesday.

"And we have a long time ahead of us within which we'll be working together to find the right solutions to this," he said, during a press conference of the ministers and their EU counterparts – EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager and Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal with Thierry Breton, EU Commissioner for Internal Market, in Brussels. ANI

"I am sure the intention is not to create a barrier to trade," Mr. Goyal said, emphasising that the measure was about sustainability.

For their part, the EU officials asserted that the mechanism did not run afoul of WTO rules.

"We were of course very careful to ensure WTO compatibility of the initiative," Mr. Dombrovskis said. "And a key word for this is 'non-discrimination'. So we apply the same price of carbon to imported goods that we are going to apply also on our domestic producers," the EU official added.

'Steel, aluminium'

"There are about six-seven commodities on which the EU has proposed carbon taxes, of which the two sectors where India is likely to feel some impact is steel and aluminium," a senior Commerce Ministry official said in New Delhi. "In the rest of the areas, we don't export much to Europe," he added.

The ministry is still calculating the likely monetary impact as the EU has prescribed different mechanisms of imposing carbon tax. "For example, in steel manufacturing through electric arc furnace and blast furnace, the carbon border tax will be different. So an assessment of how much of steel is going out of which furnace - that segregation has to be done. That will take some time. It will definitely impact to some degree," the official said.

While the move will likely impact less than 2% of India's exports, the government is examining the extent to which the overall carbon tax and the differential tax treatment proposed for instance, for steel using different furnace technologies, is compatible with WTO (World Trade Organisation) norms, said another official. "The verification process could be very complex and tedious and mutual recognition agreements will be vital," the second official noted.

The first meeting of the TTC included working groups covering Strategic Technologies, Digital Governance and Digital Connectivity; Green and Clean Energy Technologies; and Trade, Investment and Resilient Value Chains.

In a joint statement, the two sides listed the progress made and said that an MoU on semiconductors would be concluded by September 2023. Mr. Goyal said the TTC would supplement trade deal talks between India and the EU and that it would help make the relationship "the defining partnership of the 21st Century". The Working Group on trade discussed resilient value chains, market access issues, screening of FDI and multilateral trade issues.

(With additional reporting by Vikas Dhoot in New Delhi)

AB Capital to offer MSME solutions

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Aditya Birla Capital, through its lending arm, Aditya Birla Finance, has unveiled Udyog Plus, a business platform for MSMEs.

This new B2B digital platform offers solutions for MSMEs, including financing and value-added services for managing and growing businesses.

"Udyog Plus is an open marketplace that can be accessed through the financing section of the Aditya Birla Capital website by customers," the financial services company said.

Rane Madras to divest U.S. unit LMCA

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Rane Madras Ltd. (RML) has decided to divest/dispose of its wholly owned arm Rane Light Metal Casting Inc., USA (LMCA).

RML's board decided to seek shareholders' approval for the proposal.

LMCA, engaged in making high-pressure aluminium die casting, reported a turnover of ₹232 crore for FY23. LMCA's net worth is estimated at ₹32 crore.

Recently, Group Chairman L. Ganesh had said the turnaround process planned for the U.S. unit had suffered a setback owing to poor offtake.

TOUGH TO PICK

Pathirana is trickier than Malinga, according to Kings' Raza

Punjab Kings batter Sikandar Raza lauded Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana. "Pathirana is a quality talent. I remember Malinga was hard enough to face but Pathirana is a bit trickier. His arm comes lower. Malinga was side on. With Pathirana his cutters and his 145kph pace... you just don't know what's coming."

NEED OF THE HOUR

We have to keep our heads high, says Mumbai skipper Rohit

Mumbai Indians' five-run loss to Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday left it needing to win its remaining group fixture against Sunrisers Hyderabad and hope the other results go its way. "We didn't play well enough. There were moments we didn't win. Unfortunate, but we need to keep our heads high," said MI captain Rohit Sharma.

FRUSTRATED

We're making the same mistake over and over again: Bond

Mumbai Indians' bowling coach Shane Bond has expressed his frustration with the team's bowling unit for committing the "same mistake over and over again" in match situations. "The most frustrating thing is about not sticking to the plans. We were very clear with what we wanted to do on this wicket," said Bond.

50 & 50

Bishnoi reaches the 50-wkt. mark in his IPL career

Lucknow Super Giants spinner Ravi Bishnoi completed 50 wickets in his IPL career on Tuesday. The young spinner accomplished this milestone during his side's IPL 2023 match against Mumbai Indians at Lucknow. In the match, Bishnoi took 2/26 in four overs at an economy rate of 6.50. This was also his 50th IPL match.

Rossouw leads the charge as Capitals punish Kings

The South African's 37-ball unbeaten 82 trumps Livingstone's 48-ball 94; Shaw rediscovers form on his comeback with a brisk half-century for the Delhi side, forges a 94-run stand with skipper Warner

IPL-16

Dhruva Prasad
DHARAMSALA

Despite Liam Livingstone's onslaught and Ishant Sharma's tempestuous final over, Punjab Kings (PBKS) fell 15 runs short after Delhi Capitals (DC) breached the 200-run mark for the first time this Indian Premier League (IPL) season at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium here on Wednesday.

With PBKS needing 79 runs off the last four overs, Livingstone threw the otherwise disciplined DC pacers off their lengths. Ishant slipped in three consecutive full tosses which Livingstone walloped for 17 runs and agonisingly swung and missed a fourth, which all but ended PBKS' campaign.

Livingstone found support from Atharva Taide (55, 42b, 5x4, 2x6) in a scrappy 78-run partnership off 50 balls which epitomised PBKS' aggressive approach in the middle-overs this season without the desired result. Livingstone and Taide were dropped once each, and their miscued lofted shots fell short of the fielders in the deep on at least three occasions. Their run of luck reached a fever-pitch when both went unpunished for a mix-up in the middle.

Earlier, an under-fire Prithvi Shaw (54, 38b, 7x4, 1x6) relished his return to form with a sublime fifty and a 94-run opening stand – DC's highest this season – with skipper David Warner (46, 31b, 5x4, 2x6). The duo deceived PBKS into believing it had remedied its PowerPlay bowling woes when Sam Curran and Kagiso Rabada conceded just six runs off the first two overs. They stayed in their crease to ride the considerable bounce on offer during a 16-ball boundary-less vigil before Warner opened the floodgates for a 61-run PowerPlay.

After both fell victim to Curran's slower deliveries, DC's middle-order, despite the absence of Mitchell Marsh, successfully cast off the memories of its precipitous collapse against the same opposition four nights ago. Rilee Rossouw (82 n.o., 37b, 6x4, 6x6) dashed off the blocks with a couple of fours off Curran but a sterner tested awaited him.

The left-hander had fallen to spin four times in six innings this season, but he rode out the threat of Rahul Chahar, with help from Shaw, and smashed two sixes and a four in a 23-run final over bowled by Harpreet Brar.

Unstoppable: Rossouw was on fire right from the word go and toyed with the Kings attack. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS
David Warner c Dhawan b Curran 46 *(31b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Prithvi Shaw c Taide b Curran 54 *(38b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Rilee Rossouw (not out) 82 *(37b, 6x4, 6x6)*, Phil Salt (not out) 26 *(14b, 2x4, 2x6)*; Extras (w-5): 5; Total (for two wkts. in 20 overs): 213.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-94 (Warner, 10.2 overs), 2-148 (Shaw, 14.6).

PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING
Curran 4-0-36-2, Rabada 3-0-36-0, Arshdeep 2-0-21-0, Ellis 4-0-46-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-35-0, Brar 3-0-39-0.

PUNJAB KINGS
Prabhsimran Singh **(Impact Player in place of Ellis)** c Dhull b Axar 22 *(19b, 4x4)*, Shikhar Dhawan c Aman b Ishant 0 *(1b)*, Atharva Taide retd. out 55 *(42b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Liam Livingstone c Axar b Ishant 94 *(48b, 5x4, 9x6)*, Jitesh Sharma c Khaleel b Nortje 0 *(3b)*, Shahrukh Khan c Axar b Khaleel 6 *(3b, 1x6)*, Sam Curran b Nortje 11 *(5b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Harpreet Brar run out 0 *(1b)*, Rahul Chahar (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-6, w-2, nb-2): 10; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 198.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Dhawan, 1.1), 2-50 (Prabhsimran, 6.4), 3-128 (Taide, 14.6), 4-129 (Jitesh, 15.4), 5-147 (Shahrukh, 16.3), 6-180 (Curran, 18.2), 7-180 (Brar, 18.3), 8-198 (Livingstone, 19.6).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Khaleel 3-1-20-1, Ishant 3-0-36-2, Nortje 4-0-36-2, Mukesh **(Impact Player in place of Shaw)** 4-0-52-0, Axar 3-0-27-1, Kuldeep 3-0-21-0.

Toss: Kings; **PoM:** Rossouw.
Capitals won by 15 runs.

Next assignment

PBKS: May 19 **vs. RR**
Dharamsala, 7.30 p.m.

DC: May 20 **vs. CSK**
Delhi, 3.30 p.m.

Royal Challengers have everything to play for, Sunrisers only pride

Chatting up: SRH bowling coach Muralitharan and pacer Natarajan in conversation with RCB's Karthik during practice. NAGARA GOPAL

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Former champion Sunrisers Hyderabad, which has slipped to being a 'spoilers,' will take on a confident Royal Challengers Bangalore in its last IPL league match at home at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Thursday.

Royal Challengers, with the inspirational presence of Virat Kohli and led by Faf du Plessis, the top-scorer in this edition, should be hoping to move one step closer with a win in order to making it to the next phase. With eight points from 12 games, Sunrisers have already been eliminated.

It will be interesting to see how the motivation levels of the Sunrisers will be after what has been a forgettable season, including five losses from six games at home. Somehow, the team seemed to have mastered the art of losing games from winning situations.

In this backdrop, the match against Royal Challengers will be a good opportunity for Sunrisers to restore pride and provide some cheer for their die-hard fans.

In batting, except for Heinrich Klaasen, there has been nothing to rave about. The other big guns, including captain Aiden Markram, rarely fired to ensure the desired cushion for the bowlers led by the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar who, in the last game against Gujarat Titans, picked up his second five-wicket haul in the IPL.

On the other hand, Royal Challengers have a formidable batting line-up with du Plessis, Kohli and Glenn Maxwell doing most of the scoring.

The bowling attack, led by Mohammed Siraj, is supported by Wayne Parnell who bowled splendidly in the previous game against Rajasthan Royals. It has the ability to test the best of the batters.

Today's match

SUNRISERS vs. ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 21
SRH 12 | RCB 9

PREVIOUS MEETING
RCB won by **67 runs**, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

To bat or not to bat

In a season of exciting contests, defending a total has proved to be slightly better than chasing one. Yet, captains winning the toss have chosen to bat in only 19 out of 63 matches (30.15%)

Team	Fielded first	Won chasing	Batted first	Won defending
GT	**7**	**5**	**6**	**4**
CSK	6	3	7	4
LSG	7	3	**6**	**4**
MI	8	5	5	2
RCB	4	1	8	5
RR	6	2	7	4
KKR	6	3	7	3
PBKS	5	2	8	4*
SRH	7	2	5	2
DC	8	2	5	3

*PBKS won by DLS | Stats till the PBKS-DC match on May 17

- Teams chasing have won 44.44% of the matches
- Teams defending have prevailed in 55.56% of the games

Samson has opted to bat first most number of times (4 out of 9)

COMPILED BY KEERTHANA SHANKAR

I just wanted to bowl six good balls and back my strengths, says Mohsin on the final over against MI

S. Dipak Ragav
LUCKNOW

Lucknow Super Giants bowler Mohsin Khan, who delivered a superb final over to defend 11 runs for his side against Mumbai Indians here on Tuesday, revealed that he was not even sure if he would get to play again after suffering a health scare that kept him out of the game for nearly a year.

The left-arm pacer, who bowled only for the second time this year, said, "It was a very tough time, and I had given up hope of playing cricket at one point because I was not able even to lift my hand."

The 24-year-old underwent surgery after a shoulder injury to remove blood clots and missed the previous domestic season and the first half of this year's IPL. "My artery was blocked, and my nerve was blocked. It was quite scary, as the doctor had said if I were late by another month, they would have had to amputate my hand," he added.

When asked about his thoughts while bowling the last over, Mohsin said, "There is pressure on you when bowling the last over, but I was not looking at the scoreboard and how much they needed. I just wanted to bowl six good balls and back my strengths."

Meanwhile, Mumbai Indians bowling coach Shane Bond was critical of his pacers' efforts in the death overs where they conceded 69 runs in the last five.

"With the ball, in particular, the last four overs were poor. And a little period in the middle of our batting where I think two of our most important batters fell in succession. Those two short periods combined to lose us the game by a handful of runs," said Bond.

"For me, the most frustrating thing is not sticking to the plans that we talked about. Today, Stoinis was looking to hit the ball straight down the ground, and we knew that's what he was trying to do. We just dished up balls for him to do it and, in the end, his innings was the difference between the two teams," he added.

Fabulous show: Mohsin's sensational last over handed Super Giants an exciting win against Mumbai Indians. PTI

Points Table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	13	**9**	4	0	**18**	0.835
Chennai Super Kings	13	**7**	5	1	**15**	0.381
Lucknow Super Giants	13	**7**	5	1	**15**	0.304
Mumbai Indians	13	**7**	6	0	**14**	-0.128
Royal Challengers	12	**6**	6	0	**12**	0.166
Rajasthan Royals	13	**6**	7	0	**12**	0.140
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	**6**	7	0	**12**	-0.256
Punjab Kings	13	**6**	7	0	**12**	-0.308
Delhi Capitals (E)	13	**5**	8	0	**10**	-0.572
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	12	**4**	8	0	**8**	-0.575

After the PBKS-DC match on May 17 *Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated*

INBRIEF

Rune stuns Djokovic in Rome quarterfinals

Six-time champion Novak Djokovic was sent spinning out of the Italian Open on Thursday, losing his quarterfinal 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 to 20-year-old Holger Rune in Rome on Wednesday. The young Dane whistled through the first set as the 35-year-old Serb appeared to be struggling physically. Djokovic was treated by the physio at 2-1 in the second set but went on to level the match before Rune produced a double break at the top of the third, going on to book his place in the semifinal.

Indians make a clean sweep in South Asian Youth TT

Ankur Bhattacharjee and Suhana Saini won the under-19 boys' and girls' singles titles respectively in the South Asian Youth Table Tennis tournament in Itanagar on Wednesday. It was a successful day for the Indian contingent which bagged all gold medals that were on offer on the final day of the event.

The results (all finals): Boys: U-19: Ankur Bhattacharjee bt Payas Jain 11-7, 2-11, 11-9, 11-9, 8-11, 11-9. **Doubles:** Divyansh Srivastava & Jash Modi by Ridoy Mohutasin Ahmed & Bawm Ramhim Lian (Ban) 11-9, 11-7, 6-11, 11-5. **U-15:** Priyanuj Bhattacharya bt P.B. Abhinand 6-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-9. **Doubles:** P.B. Abhinand & Priyanuj Bhattacharya bt Hasib Abul Hashem & Rahman Mohd. Mahtabur (Ban) 11-8, 11-5, 13-11.
Girls: U-19: Suhana Saini bt Yashashwini Ghorpade 11-8, 11-9, 13-11, 6-11, 11-8. **Doubles:** Yashaswini Ghorpade & Suhana bt Mishka Mohamed Ibrahim & Fathimath Dheema Ali (Mdv) 11-8, 11-5, 11-4. **U-15:** Jennifer Varghese bt Avisha Karmakar 14-16, 12-10, 11-8, 11-4. **Doubles:** Jennifer Varghese & Avisha Karmarkar bt Sushmita Khadka & Subhashree Shrestha (Nep) 11-7, 11-6, 11-5. **Mixed doubles: U-19:** Payas & Yashaswini bt Akhyar Ahmed Khalid & Fathimath Dheema Ali (Mdv) 11-4, 11-2, 6-11, 11-8. **U-15:** Abhinand & Jennifer bt Mohd. Akram Md. Shafiullah & Kavindya Tamadi Alagiyawadu 11-9, 12-10, 12-10.

Indian women's hockey team takes on Australia

The Indian women's hockey team will look to put its best foot forward when it kick-starts its Asian Games preparation against world No. 3 Australia in a five-match series in Adelaide on Thursday. The Indians will play the first three matches against Australian seniors on May 18, 20 and 21 before taking on Australia-A on May 25 and 27.

Emilia Romagna F1 GP called off due to weather

The Emilia Romagna Formula One Grand Prix will not be held in Imola this weekend due to extreme weather in the northern Italian region, organisers said on Wednesday. At least three people died and thousands were evacuated from their homes as devastating floods hit the Emilia Romagna region, authorities said.

It will be Mohun Bagan Super Giant from June 1

Budging to the longstanding demands of the fans, the stakeholders of Mohun Bagan on Wednesday announced that they would remove the prefix ATK from the name of the 133-year city-based football giant. The club, which is principally owned by R.P. Sanjiv Goenka Group (RPSG), will now be known as Mohun Bagan Super Giant. RPSG is also the owner of IPL franchise Lucknow Super Giants.

Rhonex Kipruto suspended for suspected doping

Kenyan distance runner Rhonex Kipruto, who won the 10,000m bronze at the 2019 Worlds, has been suspended for suspected doping, Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) said on Wednesday.

TV PICKS

Badminton: Sudirman Cup, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 a.m. & 2.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday).

Inter makes the summit clash for the sixth time

Martinez's second-half strike helps Inzaghi's team best city rival AC Milan in the semifinal second leg at the San Siro and advance 3-0 on aggregate

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Reuters
MILAN

A second-half goal by forward Lautaro Martinez earned Inter Milan a 1-0 victory over city rival AC Milan in their Champions League semifinal second leg on Tuesday, sealing a 3-0 aggregate win and book a ticket to the showpiece in Istanbul.

Milan recovered some of the spark it lacked in first leg but Inter's Martinez put the tie to bed when he struck powerfully from close range in the 74th minute at the San Siro.

Inter went into the game holding a 2-0 advantage after Edin Dzeko and Henrikh Mkhitaryan had struck early in a flying start to the first leg and never looked in serious danger of missing out on the final, where it will face Real Madrid or Manchester City on June 10.

Inter, which overcame Portuguese pair Porto and Benfica to reach the semifinals, will play in the final for the sixth time and first since lifting its third cup in 2009-10 under Jose Mourinho.

Insurance goal: Martinez sealed the semifinals for Inter with a 74th-minute strike. GETTY IMAGES

Inter coach Simone Inzaghi fielded an unchanged team from the first leg, with Martinez and Dzeko up front, having rested players in Serie A over the weekend.

Main forward Rafael Leao returned for Milan after an adductor problem sidelined him in the first leg, with Junior Messias and Malick Thiaw starting in place of Alexis Saelemaekers and Simon Kjaer.

A much more daring Milan side could have scored early but Inter keeper Andre Onana saved a low Brahim Diaz shot that was heading towards the bottom-right corner.

Missed chance

Leao had a great chance to halve the deficit late in the first half but struck inches wide, before Milan keeper Mike Maignan superbly denied Dzeko who leaped high to meet a free kick.

While Stefano Pioli's Milan kept probing for an opening to spark a comeback, Inter hinted in the first half that it would not be taking its foot off the gas.

Martinez eventually proved Milan's executioner, playing a one-two with substitute Romelu Lukaku before scoring his sixth goal in Inter's last six games.

It is the first time Inter has progressed from an all-Milan knockout tie in the competition, with Milan coming out on top both in the 2002-03 semifinals and the 2004-05 quarters.

The result (semifinal, second leg): AC Milan 0 lost to Inter Milan 1 (Martinez 74). *Inter win 3-0 on aggregate.*

Dhiraj, Simranjeet best Indians on show in recurve

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

B. Dhiraj among men and Simranjeet Kaur among women were the best Indians in individual recurve ranking rounds of the Archery World Cup Stage-2 in Shanghai on Wednesday. Dhiraj shot 656 points to claim the 13th position, while Simranjeet scored 648 to be eighth.

Atanu Das (638, 44th), Neeraj Chauhan (638, 47th) and Tarundeep Rai (631, 57th) and Bhajan Kaur (638, 17th), Ankita Bhakat (630, 24th) and Aditi Jaiswal (618, 42nd) were the other Indians in fray.

Indian men's team placed eighth with 1932 points, while the women's team was fourth with 1916. The mixed team took the fifth spot with 1304 points.

In the compound events, the fifth-placed Indian men's side, comprising Ojas Deotale, Rishabh Yadav and Prathamesh Jawkar, got a bye and beat Indonesia 236-228 before crashing out with a 231-234 defeat to Mexico.

The third-ranked Indian women's team, consisting of V. Jyothi Surekha, Aditi Swami and Avneet Kaur, received a first round bye but lost 228-231 to Chinese Taipei.

India ends campaign with win over Australia

SUDIRMAN CUP

Press Trust of India
SUZHOU (CHINA)

Already out of the knockout race, India signed off its campaign in the Sudirman Cup badminton tournament with a 4-1 win over Australia in their final Group C tie in Suzhou, China, on Wednesday.

The results:

Group C:

India bt Australia 4-1 [Sai Pratheek & Tanisha Crasto lost to Kenneth Zhe Hooi Choo & Gronya Somerville 21-17, 14-21, 18-21; H.S. Prannoy bt Jack Yu 21-8, 21-8; Anupama Upadhyaya bt Tiffany Ho 21-16, 21-18.

M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila bt Ricky Tang & Ryane Wang 21-11, 21-12; Tanisha Crasto & Ashwini Ponnappa bt Kaitlyn Ea & Angela Yu 21-19, 21-13].

Jyothi hurdles her way to a new meet record

FEDERATION CUP

Stan Rayan
RANCHI

She had just broken the meet record and everybody appeared to be after Jyothi Yarraji after the women's 100m hurdles final in the 26th National Federation Cup athletics championships at the Birsa Munda Stadium here on Wednesday.

Photographers wanted to click pictures, the media wanted a comment and the dope control officials wanted to take Jyothi for testing as they did with almost all the winners and a few select athletes here.

Wobble

With very few finals on the championships' penultimate day, National record holder Jyothi was clearly the star of the evening. And though the 23-year-old wobbled a bit towards the end, she was far ahead of the others and bettered her meet record she had set the previous morning in the heats.

It was virtually a one-horse race and she helped three girls behind her – Nithya Ramraj, Sapna Kumari and Pragyan Sahu – to achieve the Asian Championships' qualifying standard (13.63).

"I thought I was going to fall after the 10th hurdle...I

Shining stars: Jyothi, Tejas had a day to remember. STAN RAYAN

wanted to have a fast time and probably rushed too much. But I've fallen so many times in training, so probably that's how I recovered," said Jyothi, who is a part of the Reliance Foundation and is coached Britain's James Hillier.

Jyothi finished last season with a National record (12.82s) at the National Open and her 12.89s so early this season season offers hope that she could be on a record-breaking spree this year too. But Jyothi was not done yet. Some 45 minutes later, she was back on track in the 200m heats and improved her personal best from last month's 23.60s to 23.47s as she won her race.

Her Reliance Foundation teammate, Tejas Shirse who had broken international Siddhanth Thingalaya's meet record in Tuesday's heats, clocking 13.61s (OR 13.65) was also an easy winner in the men's 110m hurdles. Shalini Chaudhary took the women's discus with a performance that was more than 15ms behind Kamalpreet Kaur's national record.

The results (finals):

Men: 110m hurdles: 1. Tejas Ashok Shirse (Mah) 13.72s, 2. Madhvendra Singh (Raj) 14.01, 3. Sachin Binu (Ker) 14.23. **Hammer:** 1. Damneet Singh (Pun) 64.91m, 2. Taranveer Singh (Pun) 64.81, 3. Lokesh Poonia (Raj) 57.61.

Women: 100m hurdles: 1. Jyothi Yarraji (AP) 12.89s (MR, OR: 13.43, own), 2. R. Nithya Ramraj (TN) 13.44, 3. Sapna Kumari (Jha) 13.58. **Discus:** 1. Shalini Chaudhary (MP) 49.35s, 2. Paramjot Kaur (Pun) 48.76, 3. Salmi Kispotta (Odi) 46.31.

Tuesday's late events: Men: Discus: 1. Harpreet Singh (Pun) 55.63s, 2. Nirbhay Singh (Har) 54.39, 3. Sachin Suhag (Har) 51.34. **Decathlon:** 1. Usaid Khan (UP) 6970 pts, 2. Mohit (Har) 6794, 3. S. Gokul (Ker) 6752.

Selection trials for u-23, u-17 grapplers

Sports Bureau

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA)-appointed Ad-Hoc Committee on Wednesday began the four-day selection trials to pick wrestlers for the Asian under-23 and under-17 wrestling championships.

After India missed the May 15 deadline for sending the entries for the continental event to be held in Bishkek from June 10 to 18, United World Wrestling extended it to May 22.

Since the Nationals for the two age groups could not be held owing to the situation arising out of the wrestlers' protest, the ad-hoc committee decided to conduct open trials.

The selected wrestlers:

U-17: Freestyle: Rupesh (48kg), Tushar (60kg), Narender (71kg); **Greco Roman:** Siddhanath (48kg), Varun (60kg), Soham Raj (71kg); **women:** Parveen (43kg), Rajnita (53kg), Savita (61kg). **U-23: Freestyle:** Sahil (97kg), Akash Antil (125kg.

Greco Roman: Rohit Dahiya (82kg), Parvesh (130kg); **women:** Anjali (59kg), Harshita (76kg).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Shreyas Gopal sizzles

Shreyas Gopal (181 & 3/34) helped Swastic Union CC (1) secure the first innings lead over Swastic Union CC (2) in a drawn KSCA (Group I) first division league encounter.

The scores:

Rajajinagar Cricketers 171 in 61.4 overs (Rohan Kadam 43, S. Shivaraj 32, V. Koushik 29, Sharan Gouda 3/47, A. Mohit Kumar 3/47) & 72 in 32.2 overs (J. Suchith 5/41) lost to Mount Joy CC 245 in 70.2 overs (Akshan Rao 27, Samarth Srinivas 39, J. Suchith 76, S. Bhargav 3/46, S.M. Shamanth 5/57).

Vultures CC 200 in 56.5 overs (R. Smaran 54, K.P. Karthikeya 39, Shikhar Shetty 26 n.o., Monish Reddy 4/40) & 176/2 in 33.2 overs (D. Nischal 55, K.L. Shrijith 100 n.o.) drew with Sir Syed Cricketers 242 in 66.5 overs (Atharv Malviya 27, Luvnith Sisodia 36, S. Suraj 43, B.A. Mohith 28, Monish Reddy 44 n.o., Santokh Singh 3/58).

Swastic Union CC (1) 404/9 in 87.5 overs (R. Samarth 28, Jeswanth Acharya 28, Shreyas Gopal 181, S. Rakshith 45, Sankalp Shailendra Shettennavar 33) & 65/2 in 12.0 overs (Siddharth 51 n.o.) drew with Swastic Union CC (2) 236 in 58.3 overs (Naga Bharath 26, Aneeshwar Gautam 26, Sujay Sateri 56, Shreyas Gopal 3/34, K.S. Devaiah 3/32, Shashikumar 3/69).

Cambridge CC 213 in 77.4 overs (Shubhang Hegde 74, Dheeraj J. Gowda 37, K. Clement Rajmohan 26, B.M. Shreyas 47, Aditya Goyal 3/43) drew with Bangalore United CC (1) 108 in 41.3 overs (K. Clement Rajmohan 3/19, Shubhang Hegde 6/33) & 179/4 in 44 overs (Lochan Appanna 111, Kishan S. Bedare 50 n.o.).

Social Cricketers 346 in 89 overs (Sudhanwa U.Kulkarni 85, S.H. Swaroop 37, D. Avinash 141, Abhishek Prabhakar 5/46) drew with FUCC (2) 243 in 55.1 overs (B.U. Shivakumar 43, Lochan S. Gowda 32, G.S. Chiranjeevi 33, Abhishek Prabhakar 37, Mohammad Ashfaq 3/44, Santosh 3/41, Shreesha S.Achar 3/50).

Bangalore Occasionals 328 in 70.2 overs (Niranjan 82, Kush Marathe 28, Rahul Singh Rawat 30, Suraj Ahuja 127, Pranav Gokhle 26, Smayan Srivastav 3/84, Suresh H. Karani 3/72) drew with Coles CC 222 in 71 overs (K.S. Lankesh 40, V. Uttam Gowda 27, Smayan Srivastav 59 n.o., Suresh Karani 41, N.V. Pranav 4/62, Rajvir Wadhwa 4/45).

D' Mello scalps nine

Nathan D' Mello took nine wickets to power Chintamani SA past Visweswarapuram CC (1) in the KSCA Group I, Division II league.

The scores: Visweswarapuram (1) 95 in 30 overs (Preetesh 27, Nathan D' Mello 3/26, Brijesh Gowda 3/2) and 135 in 33.2 overs (Virender Singh 47, Nathan D' Mello 6/46) lost to Chintamani SA 239 in 54.3 overs (Aditya Udupa 49, Kaunain Abbas 61, Ashish Nayak 63 n.o., Deep Singh 4/49, M. Adhokshaj 4/70).

Wilson Garden 83 in 39.3 overs (S. Amogh 4/24, Yaseer Nihal 3/14, Milind Mali 3/25) and 105 in 31.4 overs (S. Amogh 3/43, Milind Mali 4/44) lost to Jawans 294/4 decl. in 42 overs (M.B. Shivam 55, S.U. Karthik 55, Harshil 72, U. Karan 53 n.o., Raajoo Bhatkal 26 n.o., Pavan 4/70).

Century Cricketers 250 in 74 overs (Wardhan Khuba 50, Manvanth Kumar 50, Ashish Dhar 38, Ayudh Sharma 54, Pranav Aswath 3/54) and 120 for no loss in 26 overs (Wardhan Khuba 53 n.o., B. Dheemanth 62 n.o.) drew with Modern 221 in 61.5 overs (Premnath Gode 39, S.A. Sachin 79, Pranav Aswath 29, Harshith Gowda 3/37).

Jawahar (1) 345/7 in 90 overs (Jayesh Babu 37, Sourab Muttur 159 n.o., Amey Shanbhag 56 n.o., Shimon Luiz 4/100) drew with Jawahar (2) 284 in 81.2 overs (Shatak Gunjal 72, R. Ajith 56, Rohith Sundar 40, M.P. Samarth 27, S.B. Sanket 32 n.o., Shreevathsa Acharya 4/49).

Jupiter CA 198 in 66.5 overs (K. Gagandeep 75, Rahul Vernekar 54, Manoj Kumar 4/23, Kushal Pramesh 3/58) and 16/1 in 5 overs drew with The Bangalore Cricketers 273 in 79.3 overs (R. Akshay 67, D. Bharath 110 n.o., K. Gagandeep 4/79, S. Chiranth 3/52); Herons 124 in 46.4 overs (Shivratana 43, Vineeth Manjunath 25, Maliksab Shirur 5/39) and 177/1 in 50 overs (Suhasa Adiga 73 n.o., S.P. Arjun 51, Shivratana 46 n.o.) drew with Vijaya 229 in 53.2 overs (Vijaya Raj 50, Shivaji Yelave 69, Lavish Kaushal 40, Aevant Kothari 4/51).

Junior Football League from June 11

The Junior Football League (JFL) will kick off on June 11. The league, with Head Digital Works as the title sponsor, is aimed at promoting grassroots level football in Karnataka. Footballers D. Vignesh and A.G. Arjun, and coach Ravi Babu were felicitated at the launch event. National Public School (Sarjapur) will be the host venue.

Ankita beats Avanesyan in the first round

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Qualifier Ankita Raina beat Elina Avanesyan 7-5, 4-6, 6-1 in the first round of the $115,000 WTA tennis tournament in Florence, Italy, on Tuesday.

The results: $115,000 WTA, Florence: Singles (first round): Ankita Raina bt Elina Avanesyan 7-5, 4-6, 6-1; **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Matilde Paoletti & Lisa Pigato (Ita) bt Estelle Cascino (Fra) & Ankita Raina 6-1, 5-7, [10-7].
$80,000 Challenger, Tunis, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Niki Poonacha & Adam Taylor (Aus) bt Rayen Hermasssi & Youssef Labbene (Tun) 6-3, 6-2.
€73,000 Challenger, Oeiras, Portugal: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Alexander Merino (Per) & Christoph Negritu (Ger) bt Purav Raja & Divij Sharan 7-6(2), 6-2.
$25,000 ITF men, Pensacola, USA: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Jared Thompkins & Leonardo Vega (USA) bt Sathi Chirala & Roberto Subervi (Dom) 7-6(2), 6-4.
$15,000 ITF men, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Singles (first round): Jonathan Baron (Isr) bt Yash Chaurasia 6-2, 6-2; Ishaque Eqbal bt Alexey Aleshchev 6-1, 6-2; Denis Spiridon (Ita) bt Parth Aggarwal 7-5, 6-2; Guy Iradukunda (Bdi) bt Karan Singh 7-6(6), 6-3; Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Chirag Duhan 6-7(6), 6-1, 6-2.
$25,000 ITF women, Incheon, Korea: Singles (first round): Ya-Hsuan Lee (Tpe) bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 6-3, 6-0.
$25,000 ITF women, Kachreti, Georgia; Singles (second round): Sofia Shapatava (Geo) bt Zeel Desai 6-2, 6-2.
Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Zeel Desai & Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Lizi Dolidze & Anamaria Kurtsikashvilli (Geo) 6-3, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF women, Curitiba, Brazil: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Tara Malik (USA) & Demi Tran (Ned) bt Smriti Bhasin & Maria Marchesini (Arg) 6-2, 6-0.
$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Maria Viviani (Ita) bt Tanisha Kashyap 2-6, 7-5, 4-1 (retd.); Chiraz Bechri (Tun) bt Sharmada Balu 7-5 (retd.); Beatrice Pirtac (Irl) bt Jjannat Chiripal 6-2, 6-0.